

Kissinger: a heart operation

Dr Henry Kissinger, aged 58, the former American Secretary of State, is to undergo a triple bypass heart operation today. A spokesman for Dr Kissinger said he was in good health and spirits, but that routine tests had shown the delicate surgical procedure was necessary. Dr Kissinger was taken to hospital last week after complaining of pains in the shoulder and arm.

Lords back shop hours Bill

The House of Lords gave an unopposed second reading to Lady Trumpington's Bill to allow shopkeepers to trade when they like, including Sundays. Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, had earlier told MPs that the Government was neutral, neither opposing the Bill nor planning to introduce its own legislation. Parliament, page 4.

Reagan plans for new nerve gas

President Reagan has formally told Congress that he wishes to resume the development of chemical weapons, including the manufacture of a new nerve gas. He reaffirmed United States policy against using them first. Page 6.

Manila kidnap victim freed

Tommy Manotoc, the Filipino sportsman who was kidnapped more than a month ago, has reappeared in Manila. He told a press conference of a rescue raid by government troops on the guerrilla camp where he was held. Page 6.

'New federalism' promoted

President Reagan, on a tour of the Middle West, defended his budget proposals and promoted his concept of "new federalism", under which 43 federal programmes would be returned to the states. Page 7.

Homes sales

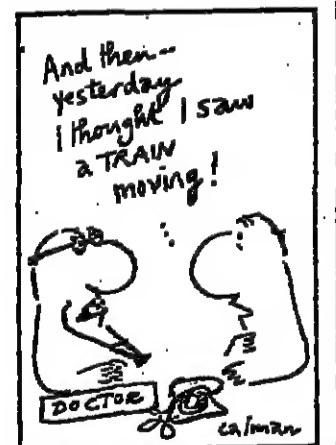
The Court of Appeal ruled that Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for the Environment, was justified in taking over the sale of Norwich council houses and the council's appeal was dismissed. Page 4.

Borrowing up

The Government is on course to invest its borrowing targets, latest figures suggest. But efforts to control money supply have been hit by a jump of £1,500m in private borrowing. Page 13.

Saunders quits

Ron Saunders resigned as manager of Aston Villa after disagreeing with his board about strengthening the team. Results this season have been disappointing after last year's championship. Page 18.



Liverpool in final

Liverpool reached the final of the Football League Cup after their 2-2 draw with Ipswich. They went through on aggregate. Page 18.

Zimbabwe today

Focus on Zimbabwe: a four-page Special Report on how blacks and whites are adjusting to independence and calls for a one-party state.

Leader page 11
Letters on Laker, from Mr Ray Whitton, MP, and others; information from Dr P. A. F. Chaff and others, and Mr Peter Kane; lead in petrol, from Mr A. E. J. Yelland and Mr Douglas Harvey
Leading articles: chemical warfare in river fertilization, page 8
The Mayor of Nice defends his city's reputation; President Reagan on the stump; by Peter Fennell; Den Nicholson, with a magic pencil, in the race law really working, page 12
Sir Cedric Morris, Dr Tudor-Elock

Home News	2-4	Parliament	4
Art	9	Property	2
Business	13-15	Science	21
Court	12	Spaw reports	19
Crowds	21	Smor	17-19
Drugs	10	TV & Radio	23
Events	24	Travellers	23
Law Report	4	25 years Ago	12
Local cartoon	6	Weather	24
Overseas	6, 7	Wills	12

Haig attacks suppression of freedom in Poland

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid, Feb 9

Western Nations today fought off Soviet attempts to prevent debate on Poland at the European security conference here after the United States had attacked Moscow for what it described as "massive violations" of human rights.

The six-hour dispute began when M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, was about to address the 35-nation East-West meeting.

The Soviet representative supported by Poland and other East European countries sought to curtail further discussion on Poland. Western diplomats said that they had no intention of backing down and claimed that Mr Josef Wiczyński, the Polish deputy Foreign Minister, who happened to be the conference chairman, was obeying obstructionist tactics dictated by Moscow.

The dispute was finally resolved when Belgium on behalf of the Western and neutral nations formally protested against the chairman's "unprecedented" interpretation of the Madrid conference rules, but agreed to let him close today's plenary session.

M Cheysson and the other 13 speakers listed to address the conference today will now speak on Friday with Lord Carrington who is joining the conference.

Mr Wiczyński maintained that he was following a unanimous agreement made before the Christmas adjournment to restrict today's meeting to a plenary morning session.

During his speech before the procedural wrangle began, Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, said that Poland's military leadership "using and the Union know very well that they have violated the Helsinki Final Act [the legal document which emerged from the original meeting of the European Security Conference]."

"They have taken a path inimical to security and co-operation in Europe. It is up to them to demonstrate that they take seriously the principles to which they are pledged," Mr Haig said. Listing various violations which he deemed "acts of oppression and intervention," he said that to ignore them would make a charade of the Madrid talks.

Night-long negotiations between Western and Eastern delegates for a second day of speakers finally permitted the conference to resume as

Pope champions Solidarity rights

The Pope said that Solidarity's problems were not just a Polish affair "but the affair of the whole world of work." He told European trade unionists that the movement had been given legal authority. "The restoration of effective and total respect for the rights of working men... constitutes the only way out..." he said. Page 6.

scheduled this morning after the Christmas recess. Mr Haig, speaking to reporters after his speech while the conference was still bogged down on procedures, indicated the United States would go on speaking about Poland "for as long as necessary out of respect for the European security process."

The American delegation would assess carefully Eastern block reactions over the coming days, perhaps weeks, he promised. Mr Haig expected Western countries to go on speaking vigorously about Poland, but a decision whether to leave the Madrid talks was a matter of consensus. "It is not for us to say," he added.

"The generals of this war against the Polish people are none other than those of the Polish regime itself, acting under the instigation and coercion of the Soviet Union. We would be threatening the future peace of Europe if we ignored this dramatic attack on international principles."

The deputy Polish Foreign Minister left the chair while Mr Haig continued speaking, going to join his national delegation but having the deputy leader of the Polish group take the chair instead. Mr Haig said that the Polish regime had been "a major obstacle to the reform process and released those it had imprisoned, the United States, Mr Haig promised, "would be among the first to insist we return to the job of moving the reform process forward in both human rights and détente."

"In the meantime," Mr Haig went on, "business as usual in Madrid would simply continue the massive violation of the Helsinki Act now occurring in Poland."

Mr Haig criticised the procedural wrangle, saying it only demonstrated once again the Communist countries' disregard for the Helsinki process.

Polish sentences, back page 6
Turning East, page 6

Laker wants to launch a 'people's airline'

Sir Freddie Laker said last night that he planned to set up a new "people's Airline", with public participation.

In a statement to the Press Association he said: "To avoid speculation I confirm that, as a result of the enormous public support, I am actively exploring a new airline project and the future plans include a charter airline, possibly leasing aircraft."

"I am deeply grateful for this support and to the organisers of 'Sir Freddie's Friendly' and others."

"I do not know as yet the amount of support which any new venture may require and because of that I would ask that no further contribution be sent in for the time being."

Aviation analysts believe that Sir Freddie's new plans would entail setting up a charter airline, possibly leasing aircraft.

A cautious statement from the Civil Aviation Authority said: "We would have to examine his proposals very carefully. He would have to come to us in any case. If he starts a new airline, he would have to prove to us his financial viability and his fitness to operate an airline. His whole case would be treated just like any other."

Meanwhile Mr Bill Mackey, the receiver appointed to Laker Airways, was considering offers for the company's two package holiday subsidiaries.

The value of Laker Travel and its subsidiary, Laker Airways, which is based in the North-west, was eroding by the hour as travel agents continued to switch holiday bookings out of them.

Mr Mackey therefore wanted to make a sale as soon as possible and expected to make a decision on the offers later in the night. Offers for both companies together were thought to be only £2m or less.

He was believed to be considering about six serious offers and said he was prepared to go right through the night if necessary to reach a decision.

"The work is progressing, but we are not yet negotiating," he said. A period of negotiation would have to follow evaluation before any decision could be made on the future of the holiday operations.

About 80 brochures describing the operations and assets of the two subsidiaries were printed, and Mr Mackey said that as many as 40 had been room.

A spokesman for Mr Mackey said that the companies would not necessarily be sold to the highest bidder, although the amount of money offered would be the main consideration.

"We are not just interested in the highest bidder. There has to be a balance between the financial offer and the need to save jobs," he said.

Officials from Cosmos and Owners Abroad were summoned to Mr Mackey's office last night and British Caledonian's Blue Sky subsidiary was also believed to be among the bidders. Thomson Holidays said last night that they would not be bidding.

Laker Airways' licences to operate scheduled services to New York, Los Angeles, Miami and Florida are likely to be suspended within six days. But Mrs Thatcher said in the Commons yesterday that it was only a suspension.

She described herself as a Freddie Laker fan and said that she understood there was a reasonable possibility that the suspension could be ended in the right circumstances allowing Laker Airways to be sold in its entirety.

A total takeover is now only a remote possibility after the collapse of the bid by Orion Royal Bank. Laker also has a licence to operate scheduled services between Britain and Zurich.

Lifting of the suspension of the licences would take place only if bodies such as the Civil Aviation Authority judged that a Laker Airways buyer would be able to continue the airline operations efficiently.

Cash and confusion, page 2

TUC study swings towards the EEC

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade union leaders who want to take Britain out of the European Economic Community will today receive a confidential report that argues against premature withdrawal.

The TUC Economic Committee is being asked to authorise an extended study of the benefits and drawbacks of community membership on the basis of an investigation that refuses to back the left's policy of separation from Europe.

Last year's congress of the TUC in Blackpool instructed the general council to campaign for withdrawal from the EEC, but the draft policy document before union leaders this morning argues that food prices might even be cheaper through the much-demonstrated common agricultural policy.

"The disparity between community prices and world prices is not as great as it once was, and there would be substantial difficulties in returning the position whereby the United Kingdom enjoyed relatively cheap supplies of food from the Commonwealth," the document says.

The policy paper, prepared by Congress House staff, also says that there has been a substantial increase in imports from EEC countries since Britain went into Europe.

However, account has also to be taken of increased United Kingdom exports to the EEC, not all of which can be explained by North Sea oil.

The whole tenor of the policy paper is against any notion of precipitate withdrawal, and on trade issues argues that Britain outside Europe would face tariff barriers on exports.

It would be wrong to adopt a policy which would leave the UK's manufacturing industry in a more exposed position than it is at the moment," the document states.

Turning to economic strategy, Congress House experts argue that development aid schemes have supported industry in Britain, and some regional policy initiatives taken in Britain have helped British industry.

Rebelling union leaders that the TUC had asked for a more positive role for EEC funds extra to UK public funding, the document adds: "A campaign for withdrawal could jeopardise TUC policy."

It would certainly place TUC representatives on such bodies as the EEC social fund and the European economic and social committee in a difficult position.

On legislation, the paper admits that there are instances where European laws have been seen as unhelpful in Britain. On the other hand, EEC legislation has sometimes been beneficial, for example in helping to achieve high health and safety standards. "It suggests that more could possibly be achieved through purely UK legislation."

Examining the EEC's international political role, the TUC paper concludes: "There is a growing tendency for the EEC to speak with a distinct authoritative voice independently of the US and USSR blocks on issues of world importance. EEC pressure has helped the US to take a stronger line."

Whatever economic arrangements Britain has with the rest of Europe, political links need to be studied further, and this could be done by the TUC as peace, disarmament and the promotion of human and trade union freedoms.

Congress House experts argue that their paper does not intend to cause the TUC policy on Europe, insisting that their intention is to do more work in a number of areas, and trade union leaders are invited to have a view to suggesting priorities for further work.

However, the draft policy paper is unusually explicit in saying that the TUC's annual congress policy resolution, and left-wing union leaders (who will mostly be absent from today's meeting) are to be asked to implement TUC policy on a central political issue.

The TUC opposed Britain's original accession to the EEC and has maintained an anti-EEC stance ever since.

The unions agreed in Blackpool last September not only to campaign for withdrawal from the EEC, but to "express opposition to EEC laws and regulations at every level by using the provisions on trade union membership and their families."

But the TUC's original stance was not a simple one. In 1977 he flew out as a replacement to join the British Lions in New Zealand.

He received the OBE for services to rugby in the new year honours list.

John Burgess, the president of Lancashire and former England captain, summed up the spirit of Burgess. "Bill is the finest player that has happened to rugby football for very many years, both as a player and as a man. I am sure he will not be lost to the game."

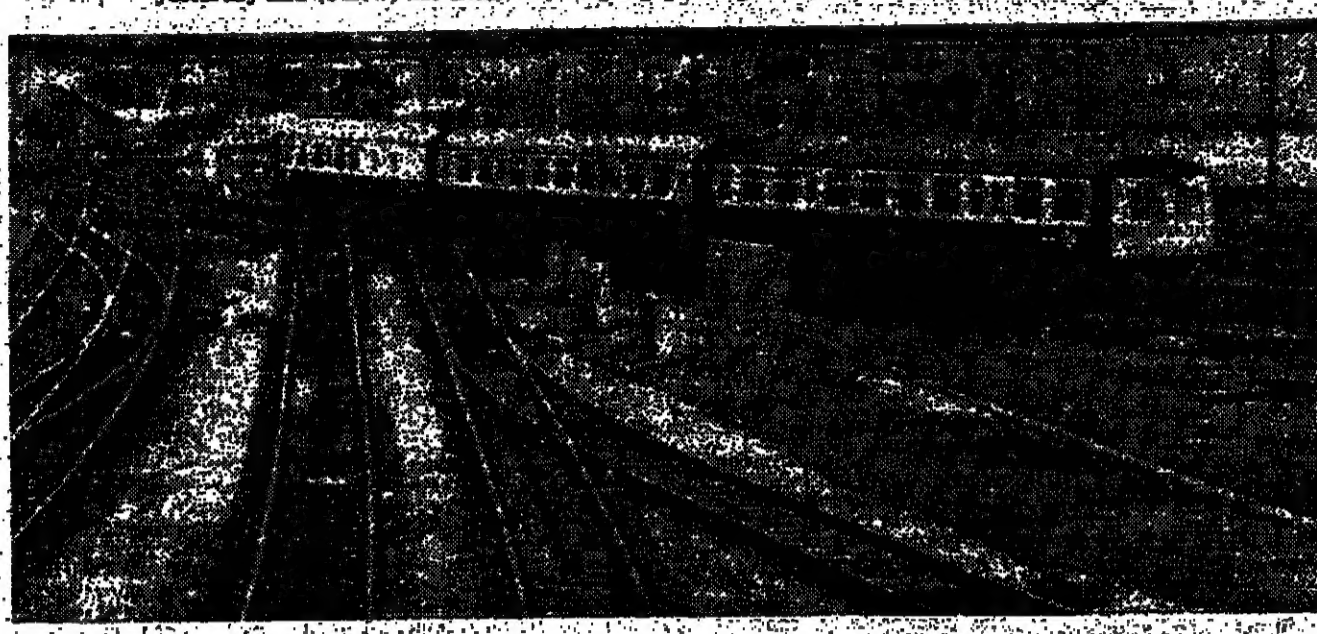
Beaumont started in Fyfe's sixth team as a full back but quickly graduated to the top rank of rugby lock forwards, through Lancashire, the North-east division and England under-23. He won his first England cap as a replacement against Ireland in 1975.

Beaumont retired from rugby in 1977. He was a five-hour examination on Monday. "I received a kick on a certain spot on the head again there could be a lot of damage," Beaumont explained yesterday. "So the advice was to quit immediately."

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Mr Roland Davies (top, centre) being escorted along platform 1 at St Marks Station, Lincoln, by railway policemen yesterday and (below) his train - the only BR passenger train running - approaching Derby



Aslef's lone driver rides into the sunset

By Arthur Osman

Mr Roland Davies, aged 65, the Aslef locomotive driver who has been in the spotlight since his arrest last night, is expected to leave the railway today.

He is to be released on bail for £5,000 and is expected to leave the railway today.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Rubik takes a 'fiendish' Revenge

Norman Brown, who was taken to hospital after a fall at a football match, is expected to be discharged today.

Fresh from a tortuous legal battle in the High Court, the team that introduced the world to the Rubik Cube yesterday prepared to launch an even bigger and more versatile successor, known as Rubik's Revenge (David Nicholson-Lord, writes).

The Revenge will have 96 squares to be wrenched into total alignment, compared with the cube's 54.

For the mathematically inclined, that means 362 octillion possible variations, against the cube's 43 billion. It is described variously as "fiendish" and "guaranteed to send seasoned cubists 'one step closer to insanity'".

Rubik's Revenge was displayed for the first time in Britain at the Earls Court toy fair in London last week as its producers and distributors were nearing the end of a copyright dispute over its predecessor.

World sales of the Rubik Cube are now estimated at 40 million. The cube, devised by Dr Ernő Rubik, is produced by Politoys, the Hungarian state co-operative, and marketed in Britain at £4.95 by the Ideal Toy Company. In a complicated lawsuit judgment in the High Court Mr Justice Dillon ruled that rival cubes imported from Taiwan breached the Hungarian copyright, but found against Ideal on its claim for passing-off.

The Romans on tour in Britain

Howard Brenton, author of the controversial play *The Romans in Britain*, is to read the play as a narrative on a four-week national tour beginning on February 15. (Our Arts Correspondent writes).

He wants to emphasize that the tour is not "illegal" because of the forthcoming indecency action by Mrs Mary Whitehouse against Mr Michael Bogdanov, the director of the play at the National Theatre.

Thatcher defends lead policy

Mrs Margaret Thatcher yesterday defended her government's record on the reduction of lead in petrol and said lead-free petrol could be introduced only in the long term (Philip Webster, Political Reporter, writes).

She said in the Commons that the decision to cut the maximum level of lead to 0.15 gms a litre by 1985 closely reflected the views of Sir Henry Vellacott, the Government's Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Panel to review custody laws

Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the Lord Chancellor, told a delegation of Conservative and Labour MPs yesterday that a working party of judges, registrars and probation and court welfare officers would be appointed to consider how better to safeguard the interests of children of divorcing parents (Our Political Staff writes).

The deputation said changes were needed to improve the fragmentary manner in which custody and other issues.

Labour move on arms

A move to extend the Labour Party's disarmament commitment from nuclear to chemical weapons was taken up by members of the party national executive yesterday. Mr Frank Ailman, MP for Salford, East, said the international committee had passed a formal resolution endorsing the American decision to produce a new range of chemical weapons.

Oldfield for Bradford

Mr George Oldfield, the man who led the hunt for the Yorkshire Ripper, is taking charge of Bradford, the area where Peter Sutcliffe, the 13 times killer lived, as Assistant Chief Constable, Western Division, of West Yorkshire.

Candidate selected

Mr Bryan Gould, former Labour MP for Southampton, Test, has been selected to fight the Barking, Dagenham, constituency in east London for the party at the next general election. He succeeds Mr John Parker who is to retire at the next election.

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Inquiry may hold separate talks with train drivers

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

The committee of inquiry into the rail dispute, which has been boycotted by the train drivers' union, began taking evidence yesterday and the union appearing before it hoped that a report will be ready by the end of the week.

The hearing started as the executive of the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (ASLEF) decided to support strikes next week with stoppages on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Services are expected to be severely disrupted today and there is another 24-hour strike tomorrow.

Lord McCarthy, the inquiry chairman yesterday heard submissions from British Rail, the National Union of Railwaymen and the white-collar Transport Salaried Staffs' Association. The hearings have been adjourned until this afternoon, when the committee's examination of the evidence should be completed.

All three rail unions are due at the House of Commons this morning to give evidence in private to the select committee on transport, which is investigating BR's electrification plans and productivity in the industry.

In spite of ASLEF's boycott Lord McCarthy is understood to be keen to find a way of persuading the union to attend. BR and the other unions would resist any plan to hold a separate session of the committee for ASLEF, but Lord McCarthy has not yet ruled out that possibility.

ASLEF's executive took less than an hour to decide to

repeat the current pattern of strikes next week, which are costing £6m each weekday. Mr Raymond Buckton, ASLEF general secretary, said that the introduction of flexible rostering, which is at the heart of the dispute, would save the board only £2.25m a year, although it would mean 4,000 lost footplate jobs.

The two other unions and BR hope that Lord McCarthy and his colleagues will make firm recommendations on the rights and wrongs of the dispute.

Mr Clifford Rose, BR's board member for industrial relations, asked the inquiry to find that ASLEF had failed to meet a commitment made last August to negotiate a departure from the eight-hour day and that the board's proposals for flexible rostering were reasonable.

He also asked the committee to rule that the parties should expedite negotiations on other aspects of the six-point productivity plan outlined in the August settlement, which gave railway staff an 11 per cent, two-stage award.

"Let me reiterate once more that our agreement on pay was only possible because the trade unions, all of them, freely committed themselves to meaningful progress on productivity," he said.

"The resolution of this dispute is vital to the future of British railways. If it is resolved positively it can help us to a better future, a future where we can say with confidence that we are prepared to make our own contribution

and ask the nation to make its contribution."

The ASLEF stance on rostering, to allow for the introduction of the 39-hour week, would cost an extra £5 for footplate staff and would involve the creation of 500 new jobs, he said.

Mr Thomas Jenkins, general secretary of the TSSA, said in his evidence to the inquiry that there were "faults that can be attributed to different parties" and he believed that BR had broken last August's understanding on pay by refusing to pay to ASLEF members a 3 per cent increase due from the beginning of January.

He thought the board should have paid the increase and then proceeded through normal negotiating machinery on the productivity aspects, which the board felt had not been honoured.

Mr Sidney Weighall, general secretary of the NUR, told the committee his union believed that there had been two understandings reached last August on pay and productivity, which were completely separate. However, he also believed that ASLEF had not honoured productivity commitments made at the time.

Yorkshire miners "black" the movement by rail of coal from pits on ASLEF strike days are doing so in the knowledge that pit head storage space will become full and pit will stop working (Ronald Kershaw writes from Barnsley). Branch officials of the National Union of Mineworkers are monitoring all coal movements to ensure that coal usually taken by rail is not moved by road.



Pyke arrives in Britain

Mr Andrew Pyke, the British businessman held in Iran for 17 months, walking through Heathrow Airport, London, yesterday with his wife after they arrived from Amsterdam. With them is Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's special envoy, who met them.

Mr Pyke, looking fit, said he had been held in Iran on a trumped-up charge after turning down an Iranian pilot who asked him for a job. During his detention he saw some of his cell companions taken away hooded for execution. He said the case against him was "a file of rubbish".

Businessmen displeased

Travellers' tales cast shadow on BA

By Michael Baily, Transport Correspondent

How inefficient is British Airways, the state leviathan that stays afloat after losing £140m last year while Laker founders? Highly so, to judge by two recent statistics. It is the businessman's least popular airline, according to a poll carried out by the magazine, *Business Traveller*, and with 52,000 staff (since cut) it headed the International Air Transport Association (IATA) table of biggest employers among world airlines last year.

Feedback to *The Times* from dissatisfied customers is also fairly high. Here is a small selection: From a businessman in Bangkok: "I shall make absolutely sure that not only I, but everyone in my firm, never flies BA again. He was furious not only with BA's failure to accommodate him and his family on the flight to Bangkok although the reservations had been confirmed only a few hours earlier, but also with the unsympathetic attitude of BA staff. They almost made me feel it was my fault," he declared.

A businessman returning to London from Switzerland: "A neighbour and I returned on the same day and I was amazed to find he got home first, although I caught an earlier flight. The reason was that it took three hours to get my baggage at Heathrow, while his, with a European airline, went straight through."

An Atlantic traveller: "They have cut down the cabin staff so much on their transatlantic jumbo flights that they can hardly cope with the workload. Their attitude on our

flight seemed to be: 'We have got to suffer, so you are going to, too'."

Another colleague at *The Times*: "I tend to keep away from British Airways. The stewardesses are like starry-eyed public schoolgirls who look down their nose at you. They are far too busy talking to each other to attend to you."

On punctuality, BA boasts of a remarkable improvement to 84 per cent of short haul and 69 per cent of long haul flights leaving within 15 minutes of scheduled time. But this is apparently still far short of some rivals: Lufthansa, for example, claims 93 per cent on United Kingdom flights, 95 per cent in Europe generally, and 98 per cent in Germany.

As the world's biggest international airline in terms of routes served—16 million passengers to 180 destinations in 1980-81—it is understandable that BA comes in for criticism, especially from the British, who so love to criticize their own.

Too much of it is justified, and apparently springs from overmanaging, restrictive practices and managerial lethargy that exist elsewhere in large-scale British industry, but not to the same extent in rival airlines.

Much of that is believed to go back to the forced merger between the British Overseas Airways Corporation (BOAC) and British European Airways (BEA) in 1974.

But BA is taking a firm grip on its problems. The target is profitability next year to pave the way for privatization. There is no reason why that should not succeed because BA has great inherent strengths; though the conglomerate may not stay in one piece.

A vigorous programme of rationalization is under way. By June the staff will have been reduced from 58,000 to 43,000 after a three-year programme. Unprofitable routes and services are being dropped, and surplus aircraft put on the market.

A £4 cut to £110 return on the London-Scotland shuttle was announced by BA yesterday, and reduced fares to Europe were announced by the Air Europe holiday charter airline.

Many BA European flights were halted yesterday when more than 600 tarmac workers at Heathrow airport London claimed they had been locked out by the airline after refusing to operate new rosters (the Press Association reports).

Yesterday marked the implementation of BA's plan for economic survival, which includes new routes, the ending of some demarcation lines and the extension of working hours. Many flights were cancelled, although management staff helped some services to operate. Shuttle flights were not affected.

BA hopes to operate two thirds of its European services today with the help of volunteers from other departments.

Mr Freddie Laker last night joined one of his failed company's receivers, Mr Bill Mackey, in asking the public to stop sending money to the Freddie Friendly Fund for the rescue of the airline. He said he had been deeply touched by the support of the public.

Confusion and acrimony continued to surround the funds poured in yesterday to try to save Sir Freddie's operations.

Mr Mackey repeated his warning to the public not to send money. But before Sir Freddie's request, the fund raisers and Laker staff were urging the public to do so, while those in banking and airline circles remained sceptical that the would be of any use.

Lloyds Bank stepped in to help the fund, but Sir Freddie's Sussex hotel owner, Mrs Kay Hardy, and Mr Colin Raworth, a west London shopkeeper, while a spokesman for Laker Airways said that Sir Freddie had agreed to become a trustee of the Freddie Friendly Fund set up by Mrs Hardy.

Industry 'reminder' for Howe

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was given more strong advice last night to concentrate any inflationary measures he has to offer in his Budget on March 9 on helping industry.

The message came from both wings of the party at a private meeting of the backbench Finance committee. Although many of the 30 or so speakers favoured the indexation of tax allowances, which the Chancellor is widely expected to restore, he would have been left with the impression that they expect him to give business aid greater priority than cuts in the standard rate of income tax.

The Chancellor did not say a word at last night's meeting. If he even said "good evening" to his guests, apparently, he heard him. But he would have heard little that surprised him.

MPs expected him to produce a mild inflationary package in his Budget amounting in total to something between the £15,000 injection gradually proposed by the right, and the £5,000m suggested by Sir Ian Gilmour and the "wets".

More than one speaker from the Liberal wing were reported to have told Sir Geoffrey that the Budget would be his last chance to get the economy right before the next election.

He was told that if he delayed giving the economy a boost until next year it would be seen as an attempt to buy votes and would be counterproductive.

One outspoken critic reportedly told Sir Geoffrey that his last Budget was a disgrace. The "wets" emerged from the meeting feeling that their case had been well put. One remarked later: "The Chancellor sat and listened. Let us hope that he heard what was said."

Freddie Laker's business has debts of £270m, and assets of £200m, with only £18m in shareholdings.

Mrs Hardy said: "Even if the money buys just one aircraft at the end of the day, Sir Freddie can start up again. He started with only one plane."

Those in airline circles, however, estimated the cost of one of Laker's DC10s at anything up to £10m. The Airbus he owns, in which some companies have expressed interest, should fetch higher prices.

Sir Freddie himself was in court again yesterday at a private hearing before a High Court Family Division judge. His American-born third wife was also present. The couple married in 1975 and have a four-year-old son.

Four-way battle, page 13

Health Services Correspondent

Artificial insemination by donor (AID) raises serious ethical questions because children are not being told the truth about their parentage. Dr Robert Snowdon, a director of the Institute of Population Studies at Exeter University, said yesterday.

Artificial insemination by donor had been used in Britain for more than forty years and practised by about 2,000 couples a year. But the ethical questions of that had not been adequately considered either.

In a lecture at King's College, London, Dr Snowdon said society did not appreciate the full implications of scientific advances, such as man's ability to divide the cells of a human egg to produce two genetically identical people.

Leading article, page 11

Science report

The largest molecule found so far in space

By the Staff of "Nature"

The largest molecule so far found in space turns out to be a chemical relative of acetylene containing fewer than 11 atoms of carbon strung together. The discovery of the molecule in the shell of gas surrounding a carbon-rich star 600 light years away is described by four radioastronomers, M. R. Bell, P. A. Feldman, S. N. Kwok and L. E. Matthews, from the Herzberg Institute of Astrophysics in Ottawa.

Its importance lies not so much in the size of the molecule as in the possibility of carbon stars in populating interstellar space with relatively complicated chemical materials. Carbon stars are those in which thermal nuclear processes have converted substantial amounts of their primary nuclear fuel into carbon, some of which has been expelled from the centre of the star by the pressure of radiation.

Data from two radio telescopes, in the United States and Canada, have been combined to show that the 11-carbon molecule exists in the outer atmosphere of the carbon star known as IRC+10°216. The star, which is relatively cool compared with the sun, has been known for some time to contain molecules of the family of which acetylene is the simplest member, and known as polynes, as well as cyanopolyynes in which carbon and nitrogen are terminated at one end in a hydrogen atom and at the other in a nitrogen atom.

The molecule now discovered has an atom of nitrogen at one end and a hydrogen atom at the other. To chemists, it is known as cyano-deca-pentyne. Similar but smaller molecules have previously been recognized in the atmosphere of the star, especially the molecule constructed from a chain of seven carbon atoms.

In the atmosphere of the carbon star, the molecules have been recognized by their characteristic contribution to the emission of radio waves from the outer atmosphere of the star. Altogether, three distinct spectral lines from the 11-carbon molecule have been found in the range of frequencies from 23,500 to 24,500 megahertz, corresponding to a radio (or radar) wavelength of just over a centimetre. The spectral lines which have been measured are caused by changes in the rotational energy of 11-carbon molecules.

The most striking feature of the observations now reported is that the 11-carbon molecule seems to be 70 per cent as abundant as the smaller seven-carbon molecule in the atmosphere of the carbon star. The implication is that the processes by which these long-chain molecules are constructed in stellar atmospheres are surprisingly efficient. They

even go so far as to construct chains of graphite grains, thought to be an important constituent of interstellar dust.

The authors of the research say that these large molecules will be swept out of the atmosphere of the stars in which they are formed by the pressure of radiation, and that even though large proportions of them will then be destroyed by ultraviolet light from bright stars, they should be able to survive in interstellar space.

Source: *Nature* (Vol

Prisoner and officers hurt in jail clash

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

A prisoner and three prison officers were injured at Brixton prison south London, after officers had forced their way into two barricaded cells when moving prisoners to overcome an accommodation crisis, it was disclosed yesterday.

The clash, on January 25, came to light as the Government disclosed that cells at London courts and at a police station were being used as emergency accommodation for the overspill from London jails.

To avoid leaving 15 prisoners in police custody during the night and to create space, prison staff moved 15 at Brixton to Wormwood Scrubs.

Hydraulic jacks were needed to unhinge the doors of two cells, and protective clothing and shields were worn, but not used, after three prisoners barricaded in was armed with a razor.

One of them went quietly, but in the second cell there was a struggle. A prisoner with head injuries refused medical treatment.

Nearly 150 cell spaces were used between January 29 and February 3, Mr Patrick Mayhew, Minister of State, Home Office, told Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, chairman of the parliamentary all-party penal affairs group, in a Commons answer yesterday.

The Prison Department is now using cells at the Inner London Crown Court until March 21. The accommodation crisis could be repeated, warnings from officials.

Mr Duncan Buttery, a

Prison Department official, told MPs on the home affairs select committee over a year ago that prisoners were suffering from years of neglect. He said: "The whole estate is, in fact, in a state of disrepair. The use of cells at Camberwell Magistrates' Court, Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court and Lavender Hill police station is the result of overcrowding in prisons while emergency repairs are made. The cells have been used for adult males awaiting trial. No one has remained in police cells for more than three nights, Mr Mayhew said.

There was an outcry when cells at Horseferry Road were used for longer periods during the prison officers' dispute in 1980. Lawyers described "inhuman conditions" and a client was said to have contracted scabies in "insanitary and unhygienic" cells.

But the Metropolitan Police said doctors were always available and people in the cells were given medical checks and seen at regular intervals.

The immediate cause of the present crisis is work at Brixton, Wormwood Scrubs and Pentonville, a prison which an official there told MPs was "falling to bits".

At Brixton 208 cells in F wing were taken out of use in October, 1980, because it was classed as structurally unsafe.

Repairs beginning next April will take about two years.

Building work at Wormwood Scrubs is already the subject of controversy and examination by Mr Gordon Downes, and Auditor General. Mr John McCarthy, described the prison as "a massive injection of capital if we are to have prisons standing at the end of the decade".

The Government is considering changing statutory guidelines introduced in 1948 on custodial sentences for young offenders (Richard Evans writes).

At present a court is prohibited from passing such sentences on people under 21 "unless it is of the opinion that no other method of dealing with him is appropriate".

Mr Mayhew told the Commons standing committee examining the Criminal Justice Bill yesterday that the present law was "imprecise. We would like to consider whether this formula in the Bill is appropriate — albeit that it has been on the statute book since 1948 — and is not capable of some improvements".

But he disapproved of an amendment proposed by Mr Kilroy-Silk which stipulated that courts could impose custodial sentences only where offenders were unable or unwilling to respond to non-custodial penalties or because the sentence was needed to protect the public.

Mr Mayhew said the suggestion was too restrictive.

Girl's borstal 'the most violent'

By Frances Gibb

Bullwood Hall girls' borstal, in Essex, is the most violent and troubled establishment in England and Wales and should be closed as a matter of urgency, according to a research paper published today.

The paper, by Keep Out, a new pressure group of 50 academics, lawyers, journalists and police officers campaigning for a reduction in the number of young people in custody, describes Bullwood Hall as a penal dustbin for girls with nowhere else to go and says there are far more assaults and criminal offences there than in male establishments.

Such offences include violence, wilful damage, escapes or attempted escapes and disobedience. In 1980, 217 trainees were punished for 984 offences, including two of gross sexual violence against an officer, 64 assaults and nine escapes.

Staff say there is also quite a lot of self-mutilation, including cuts and abrasions, ear piercing, insertion of needles into their bodies, tattooing and even self-strangulation.

The paper notes that staff are concerned about the growing number of girls aged 15 and 16 given a borstal sentence. They believe many would benefit from better supervision, psychiatric care and hostel accommodation in the community.

The paper says Bullwood Hall has been described by a visiting psychiatrist as probably the most difficult establishment in the UK. The borstal's senior psychologist adds: "In my experience this population must be one of the most collectively disturbed and unstable."

A former assistant governor described his time there in 1979 as his most demanding job, including duty at Belfast's Maze Prison, then known as Long Kesh, at the height of internment.

Professor Norman Tutt, professor of applied social studies at Lancaster University and a founding sponsor of Keep Out, said: "There is unanimous agreement that

Bullwood Hall is an unsuitable environment for young women and girls and that its closure should be regarded as a matter of urgency."

He said that one of the most pernicious aspects of Bullwood was its inaccessibility, although it takes girls from all over the country.

The average sentence there is seven months, yet in 1980, 13 per cent of the girls had no visit at all while there, 16 per cent had one visit and 29 per cent were not seen by a probation officer or social worker.

The paper says that many of the girls should never have been sent there. It quotes the deputy governor: "There is great disparity of sentencing. For example, there is one girl here now for banging a house parent on the thumb."

The paper concludes that for many girls "Bullwood Hall is a penal dustbin into which they have been thrown because there is nowhere else for them to go."

Reducing the Use of Custody for Young People, Keep Out, 71 Elmfield Road, London, SE24.

Research consultants: 3

New threat to agriculture

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The Agricultural Research Council shares a modest building in Great Portland Street, London, with the Schools Council, the Sports Council and the All England Women's Hockey Association.

It is responsible for 34 institutes and research units in England, Wales and Scotland, and its recent decision to close one of them and part of another has provoked much indignation and recrimination.

Professor John Rock, the council's second secretary, describes this as an unhappy time of having to face up to financial pressures and cash limits. There is a danger, he believes, of the institute becoming over-committed, so that the funds available for vital research have to be increasingly thinly spread.

Its budget for the current year is some £86m, of which about two thirds will be absorbed by the wages and salaries of the 7,000 employed in the service.

Some money can be saved by not filling vacancies, but the continuing burden of overheads such as the heating and maintenance of the buildings and the pressure to shut down whole units and redeploy the remaining staff.

Next month the council meets in London to review the position. Hopes of a reprieve for the Agricultural Research Organisation in Edinburgh, or for the pomology and food and beverages divisions of Long Ashton Research Station, at Bristol, are remote; the fear is rather that additional closures will be announced.

Professor Rock emphasises the need for a more flexible organization and for greater readiness by scientists to switch from one project to another. He also believes there must be more centralized control, and that greater attention must be paid to what the "customer" wants.

But there the professor knows he is likely to tread on sensitive toes. There is constant mutual suspicion between scientists engaged on short-term working projects and those working on long-term fundamental research.

The range of applied pro-

jects is enormous and commonly seeks solutions to problems of, for example, crop production, resistance to insecticides, fruit storage, animal diseases or quality control in dairies.

Such studies are often commissioned and sometimes paid for by grants from outside bodies. Last year the third largest outside contribution was from Oxford.

Generally speaking, it is the applied research that is most appreciated by farmers. They have specific problems and they want the best possible advice on dealing with them. Government funds for that are channelled through the Ministry of Agriculture, and it accounts for about half the total budget.

The other half of the council's budget, which is funded directly by the Department of Education and Science, is for basic long-term research into subjects such as plant genetics, biotechnology and photosynthesis.

Because that side of its activities is little understood, it is regarded with some suspicion, although as an official pointed out, eventual results could be far more significant.

Steering his tricky course, Professor Rock concedes that the research councils have fared better in terms of financial support than many other Government-funded organizations.

He is aware that, like most quangos, his council is regarded as inefficient and even unnecessary, but he points out that with a mere 160 staff, it is not exactly too heavy in relation to the institutes that it coordinates.

In answer to critics that the council itself should be abolished, rather than Long Ashton or Edinburgh, he answers that there would still be a need for some kind of central coordinating body to determine priorities.

Attitudes to the council within the various institutes inevitably vary.

One director, who at this delicate time preferred not to be named, suggested that agricultural research needed to be reorganized among a much smaller number of institutes.

"That means selective clos-



A sculpture by John Taylor (right) of a boy suffering from muscular dystrophy and sitting in a wheelchair, on the steps of the Tate Gallery in London yesterday. It is a collecting device for the Muscular Dystrophy Group. The Tate has just received an award for providing facilities for the disabled.

Farmers losing £2m a day

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Some 2,000 farmers went bankrupt in Britain last year, according to a survey by the industry's debtors' association, the National Farmers' Union, which says the industry's debts approach £4,000m and increased by £2m a day, the annual meeting of the National Farmers' Union heard in London yesterday.

A motion calling for the Government to support a real increase in farm prices in the forthcoming EEC review was carried unanimously. The meeting also agreed, although with some dissent, that in the absence of such a rise, the industry should mount a forceful campaign to oppose Spain's and Portugal's membership of the Community.

Sir Richard Butler, the union's president, said that unlike manufacturing industry, recession in agriculture did not attract attention through dramatic statistics. But farmers had cut back on all but essential spending and had not invested in replacement of buildings, plant or machinery.

"Farm investment is at its lowest level for about twenty years," he added. "Farmers are having to borrow to maintain their working capital, or sometimes even to rearm themselves."

Although Sir Richard saw some hope of improvement, very few delegates shared that view. Mr J. L. Lampitt, a delegate from Stratford-on-Avon, said: "There was a danger of farmers becoming 'the new indentured peasantry of the 1930s'."

If farm incomes continued to decline, it would affect not just farmers and farmworkers, but also the hundreds of thousands of workers in ancillary industries who depended on agriculture, and ultimately the entire British population, which took the principal supply for granted.

Mr C. J. Jennings, who proposed the motion, said that they were often presented as poor, backward countries whose accession was needed for political reasons. But Spain had the largest number of sheep in Europe after Britain and was forecast to become a large exporter of pigmeat.

Could British horticulture seriously be expected to compete with the Canary Islands, where there were no glasshouses, no heating bills and a year-round growing season, he asked.

In calling for more positive action to establish a central marketing organization for British food, Mr John Plumb likened the EEC to a giant mousetrap, the object being to get as much cheese as possible without being caught.

The French and the Dutch were very adept at getting the cheese because they had got their marketing right.

During a discussion on animal welfare, Mr D. H. Barker described a number of organizations, including the Animal Defence Society and Compassion in World Farming, as the enemies of not only the British farmer but the British consumer.

EEC court upholds women's rail rights

By Ian Murray and Lucy Hodges

Sex discrimination by British Rail against its pensioners breaks the Treaty of Rome, the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg decided yesterday.

In future women who retire from the industry should be given the same travel concessions for their families as men, according to the ruling from nine European judges.

Mrs Eileen Garland, aged 56, of Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, who raised the issue, said the railways discriminated against women employees by stopping concessory travel for their families when they retired. The families of retired male workers, on the other hand, continue to receive free or reduced fares.

Voicing her satisfaction with the judgment yesterday, Mrs Garland said: "There are a lot of people hard hit by this discrimination. The decision is obviously right and has just proved it."

Mrs Garland, a clerical officer in British Rail's accounts department, took the railway to court with the help of the Equal Opportunities Commission. Her case took several years going through the British courts.

The legal argument centred on whether the travel concessions came under Article 119 of the Rome Treaty, which says that men and women should receive the same pay and privileges "whether in cash or in kind".

The European judges said that travel arrangements should be considered as pay in that context, and the fact that they were not part of the employee's contract was immaterial.

"This is a landmark decision," the Equal Opportunities Commission said.

The Law Lords sent it to Luxembourg to make sure their judgment was in line with EEC law. The case will now return to the Lords.

from an industrial tribunal to the Law Lords, and is estimated to have cost about £50,000.

It was lost at the industrial tribunal and Court of Appeal stage (Lord Denning presiding) on the grounds of an exclusion in the Sex Discrimination Act, 1975, which exempts from its provision anything relating to death or retirement. But it was won in the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

Concern at BR link in pensioners' holidays

By Tony Samstag

Pensioners who hold Railcards entitling them to half-price have become the targets of a direct mail advertising campaign offering holidays "for the over 60s".

British Rail has supplied the names of about 10,000 Railcard holders to Saga Holidays, of Folkestone, Kent.

British Rail describes its relationship with Saga as "very big business for us" and the organizations maintain that they have had only two or three complaints since the experimental mailing began in December. They said many pensioners had welcomed the approach and several hundred had booked holidays.

Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham, West, whose Data Protection Bill introduced last month, calls for an independent body to monitor and safeguard the collection of personal data, questioned the propriety of the British Rail-Saga connexion.

"The problem is whether British Rail was within its rights in handing over information collected for one purpose to another organization without the person's consent," Mr Meacher said.

Under his Bill such a transfer of information would be grounds for redress, he added.

The National Consumer Council agreed that the purposes for which personal data were gathered should circumscribe their use.

British Rail said selling rail holidays was big business and there was no reason to rule out similar exercises in future, although names would be used only for ventures related to rail travel. Their lists as such, if they existed, would be considered.

Neither British Gas nor British Airways could recall yesterday ever having supplied a commercial organization with customers' names. British Airways said that membership of its Executive Club, for example, implied "an absolute undertaking" of confidentiality. "Ethics are the most important thing; by selling it one devalues the worth of the list to oneself."

Mr A. G. C. Jones, assistant to the managing director of Saga Holidays, said yesterday that the company's policy was to take great care with complaints about unsolicited material.

All complaints were answered immediately with a letter of apology and the complainant's name was removed from the list, he added. "We are not in the business of selling people a product they do not want."

The Saga letters, personally addressed to Railcard holders and signed by Mr Sidney De Haan, the chairman, says: "Our good friends at British Rail have reacted warmly to the idea that we should write to introduce you to Saga Holidays."

"British Rail know all about Saga's great-value holidays for the over-sixties. And they felt that, as one of their privileged customers and the holder of a Senior Citizen's Railcard, you would welcome the chance of discovering just what splendid holidays they are."

Pope sends private greeting to the Queen

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster, has passed to the Queen a private note from the Pope containing a "very warm message of greeting" in connection with his visit to Britain at the end of May. The Cardinal returned from a brief visit to Rome last weekend.

The Pope, Cardinal Hume said, was looking forward to his visit. He has agreed to the central proposals for his itinerary drawn up by the Roman Catholic bishops of England and Wales.

The central theme will be the sacraments, of which there are seven in the Roman Catholic Church. To the extent that it is practically possible, the Pope will celebrate each of the seven sacraments, one of which will feature as a keynote in each of his public appearances.

Thus the service in Westminster Cathedral the anniversary of the sick, that at Coventry airport confirmation, and so on.

In making his visit to Rome and in issuing a statement about it today, it is understood that Cardinal Hume is responding to the impression so far given that the main impact of the visit is likely to be a series of spectacular public celebrations, accompanied by the sale of thousands of souvenirs to pay for it all.

He is concerned to establish that the spiritual and religious nature of the visit is the central point.

"It is important that Catholics should not lose sight of the deeper significance of the Pope's journey," the Cardinal says.

"He comes to confirm the faith of his brethren and to feed the lambs and the sheep who make up the flock. The Pope will come as pastor and bishop on a spiritual mission. The chosen symbol of the spiritual mission is the theme of the sacraments, he adds.

Where the nature of the sacrament makes an exact celebration of it inappropriate, in the case of penance and of marriage, a service closely related to the sacrament will be held. In York, for instance, the service will take the form of a massed renewal of marriage vows.

It is also significant that after discussing the visit with the Pope the Cardinal remarks that he hopes it will "provide fresh impetus towards visible church unity, both with the Anglican Church and with all other Christian bodies in our land."

There has been considerable speculation, and some anxiety in circles outside the Roman Catholic Church, about the nature of the so-called "ecumenical dimension" to the visit. Cardinal Hume is aware of the sensitivity.

Meanwhile, a group of Roman Catholic traditionalists, many of them members of the Latin Mass Society, have announced that they will send a briefing paper to the Pope complaining of progressive tendencies and indiscipline in the Roman Catholic Church in England.

Supported by six members of Parliament who are Roman Catholics and by such people as Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, Sir Ralph Richardson and Mr Auberon Waugh, the group is to hold a public meeting on Saturday, February 20, at which Sir John Biggs-Davison will take the chair.

The group is called Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice and in announcing the public meeting it speaks of "false ecumenism", such as the recent Roman Catholic support of the Rastafarian movement, the lack of official church support for traditional teaching on morality and marriage, experimental services, and anxiety about standards of religious education.

The Latin Mass Society has already announced an appeal to the Pope, in connection with his visit, to restore the celebration of the Tridentine rite Mass, which was replaced by the present Roman rite in 1969.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Computing a cure for smokers

A computer programme which aims to help 1,000 smokers a month to give up the habit was launched in London yesterday by a computer company specializing in medical projects. For £14.50 smokers will receive five sets of information and questionnaires at monthly intervals. The answers they fill in will be fed into a computer to determine the content of the next bulletin.

The course, being offered by Medical Computing Services, was the idea of Dr Keith Beswick, a general practitioner in Oxfordshire (our Health Services Correspondent writes).

Dr Donald Lane, a consultant chest physician and a member of the Royal College of Physicians committee on smoking and health, said of the programme: "While it cannot make the unwilling choose to stop, the extended follow-up will help to reinforce the initial resolve."

Zoo faces trial over killer tiger

Howlett's and Fort Lymphie Estates are to face trial over the deaths of two keepers saved by Zeya, a Siberian tiger, at Mr John Aspinall's zoo near Canterbury, Kent, in 1980.

Canterbury magistrates were told yesterday that the first prosecution related to the death of Mr Brian Stocks, head tiger keeper at Howlett's Zoo Park, who died in hospital on August 21, 1980. The company is accused of permitting him to enter Zeya's enclosure alone when she was there.

The second summons alleges that Mr Robert Wilson, who died a month later, was permitted to enter an enclosure separated from Zeya's by a fence of inadequate design and height.

The trial will be held at Maidstone Crown Court.

Holiday in sun for Princess

The Prince and Princess of Wales's holiday next week in southern, an island off the coast of Devon, is to give them a rest in the sunshine, Buckingham Palace said yesterday. The holiday, from February 16 to 26, comes after the Princess's recent fall on a staircase at Sandringham.

Part of the island belongs to the Prince's cousins, Lady Mountbatten of Burma and Lord Brabourne. The Princess is expecting her first child in June.

Peace camp is broken up

A peace camp inside the entrance of the United States Air Force base at Fairford, Gloucestershire was broken up by Ministry of Defence police yesterday.

About fifteen anti-nuclear protesters from the west country who had been living in the camp since last Saturday, were carried off the ministry ground by 30 policemen. Their caravans and tents were removed and the ground was fenced off. A notice giving warning that the area was restricted was erected.

Potterer of husband jailed for a year

Judith Herbert, aged 27, a housewife, who took a schoolboy aged 14 as her lover and then poisoned her husband, was jailed for 12 months at Winchester Crown Court on Monday. She was cleared of attempting to murder her husband, Mr Patrick Herbert, aged 54, but convicted of administering poison so as to endanger life. She denied both charges.

Roman remains

Workmen digging foundations for a factory extension at Ancaster, Lincolnshire, have uncovered a 2,000-year-old burial ground, believed to be of Roman origin. Ancaster was built on the site of the Roman town, Caesannae, where limestone was quarried.

BL wins extra fleet sales.

BL Cars' overall share of the car market grew by 14% in 1981. At a time when most other manufacturers lost ground.

But just as significant was BL Cars' progress in the highly competitive fleet market, where the Company's share grew by 3%. Over 200 important companies bought more BL cars than ever before, giving a £70 million boost to the business.

Fleet sales become more important every year, so this increase in business is especially encouraging.

It is reassuring qualities like style, fuel economy and value for money that are winning extra business for BL.


Companies who have switched to BL cars from rival manufacturers include Granada TV Rental and Visionhire who have bought Austin Metros and Rank Xerox who have bought Morris Italas.

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From February 1st the cost of calling the U.S.A. and Canada drops dramatically. For example, three minutes during Cheap Rate are down from £2.23 to £1.49 and, on Standard Rate, from £2.82 to £1.88.

The prices to all other countries remain at the level we established last November when we simplified our pricing policy.

A three minute call to virtually anywhere in Europe, for instance, will continue to cost just 99p

during Cheap Rate and £1.24 at other times. If you'd like full details, dial 100 and ask for Freefone 2500 who'll send you our leaflet.

British
TELECOM
International

US says it will not use chemical weapons first

From Nicholas Hirst, Washington, Feb 9

President Reagan has formally told Congress that he wishes to resume the development of chemical weapons, but has reaffirmed the United States policy against using them first.

The formal announcement that manufacture was planned came yesterday in a letter required by law to Mr. "Tip" O'Neill, the Speaker of the House.

In the absence of a verifiable treaty banning the use of chemical weapons the United States must deter their use by denying any significant advantage to an enemy, the President's letter said.

"Such a deterrence requires modernization of our retaliatory capability as well as improvement of our chemical warfare protective measures," the President wrote.

The President's decision to go ahead with the manufacture of a new nerve gas for chemical warfare, first shadowed in *The Times* last week, is likely to renew concerns in Europe of the United States military intentions in the event of a conflict with the Soviet Union.

As with the neutron bomb, chemical weapons are most likely to be used in a European rather than an intercontinental war. But no decision has been made on their deployment and in his letter the President has tried to allay fear by pointing to the United States' willingness to enter negotiations for a treaty to prevent their use.

Development would "provide strong leverage towards negotiating a verifiable agreement banning chemical weapons", he said, and

restated American policy not to use them first.

No chemical weapons have been manufactured in the United States since 1969 when President Nixon announced the use of germ warfare and said it would not use chemical weapons unless attacked with them.

Last year, by a narrow margin of two votes in the Senate, the President won approval for \$20m (£10.7m) for new equipment to make nerve gas. His letter refers to production of "lethal binary chemical munitions".

Binary chemical weapons are those where two non-lethal chemicals are combined in a projectile while in flight to its target. On impact the projectile releases a lethal nerve gas.

In his defence budget for 1983 the President has asked for \$705m for chemical warfare compared with only \$532m in 1982 for protective measures such as gas detection systems and protective clothing. The new amount will clearly go to gearing up for production.

Geneva: In a bleak assessment of the disarmament negotiations outlook, Mr Eugene Rostow, director of the United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, announced circumstances the Reagan Administration does not envisage a comprehensive ban on nuclear weapons tests (Alan McGregor writes).

He was addressing the 40-nation United Nations disarmament committee which for years has had the attainment of such a ban as the top item in its agenda. This was also the object of tripartite negotiations here between the United States,

Britain and the Soviet Union — which began in 1977 but have been in suspense for more than a year.

For the fact that nothing has been achieved in disarmament over the past decade, Mr Rostow blamed "the expansionist policy of the Soviet Union and the past extraordinary military buildup on which it is based" together with disregard of Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter that forbids the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state.

In response to this buildup, the United States, its allies and many other nations had "reluctantly undertaken the burden of modernizing their armed forces in a belated effort to restore the military balance". A comprehensive test ban would not help to reduce the nuclear weapons threat or to maintain the stability of the nuclear balance, he said.

"Troubling questions have arisen about Soviet compliance with international agreements concerning chemical and biological warfare," he added. New evidence from South-East Asia indicated use of prohibited lethal mycotoxins, particularly cruel and inhumane weapons.

In replying, Mr Viktor Issaev, the Soviet delegate, assailed the "incredible" United States military budget as an "unbridled arms race in elaboration of further types of weapons for a first strike". The Americans were seeking qualitative superiority, with production of new nerve-gas weapons as part of the programme, he emphasized.

Leading article, page 11



EEC urban policy demanded

From Our Own Correspondent

Brussels, Feb 9
Civic leaders from several of Britain's largest and most depressed cities gave a stern warning today that unless the EEC quickly defined an urban policy there would be great disenchantment with the Community.

They were giving evidence on the severe problems facing the inner cities during the first public hearing of the intergroup of local representatives of the political groups in the European Parliament in Brussels.

Over the past two days mayors and senior officials from cities throughout the Community have been discussing the need for a unified scheme for urban development with representatives from the Parliament. For the British, representatives, however, the promise of more reports and proposals which emerged at the end of the meeting was not sufficient.

Mr Illyd Harrington, deputy leader of the Greater London Council, said after the meeting that it was time Europe gave a higher priority to spending on urban policies rather than on agriculture. Unemployment in the Stepney and Poplar areas of London was, at 25 per cent, the highest in Europe.

Mr Gaston Thore, the President of the Commission, admitted that the Community did not have an urban policy as such.

Mr Harrington was less than impressed. "Unless they get down to defining an urban policy," he said, "it is going to be very hard to sustain any interest in this organization."

Solidarity's rights backed by Pope

From Peter Nichols, Rome, Feb 9

The Pope today insisted that the key to the solution of the Polish crisis lies in the regime's treatment of the Solidarity free trade union movement.

He was addressing a group of European trade union leaders including representatives of Solidarity. He said that the Polish trade union "is and remains an autonomous and independent union faithful to its initial inspiration, refusing violence in the difficult situation in which it is living, intent on being a constructive force for the nation."

The problems of Solidarity were not simply a Polish affair but, in their origins and effects, "the affair of the whole world of work in its entirety".

The Pope said: "the restitution of effective and total respect for the rights of working men and especially their right to a union, in fact already created and given legal authority, constitutes the only way out of this difficult situation."

Without this respect for human rights the normalization of life in society, the development of economic life and the safeguarding of culture in all its expressions remained impossible, he said.

The speech can be said to have added the intensity of feeling on the principal practical issues felt at the Vatican after the more generic appeal here on Sunday by the Polish Primate Archbishop Glemp for reconciliation.

In his sermon at the Polish church here, the Archbishop had talked of the Communists as sick, and saw the task of the church to help overcome this illness in the way Christ himself cured sickness.

The Pope said that he had in mind those men and women in Poland who had been harshly affected by martial law imposed two months ago; "those who have lost their lives, or have been wounded, arrested or detained, who have been judged and severely punished, who have lost their jobs because of their convictions".

He had in mind those who in the midst of great difficulties, preserved hope and

remained faithful to the will to seek for Poland the road to justice, of the rights of man, of peace and of truth.

He reminded the trade unionists that a year ago he had received in Lech Walesa and other representatives of Solidarity at the Vatican. "At that meeting," he added, "there was present the head of the delegation of the Government of the Polish Republic of Poland for permanent working contacts with the Holy See."

"I expressed on that occasion my joy in knowing that on November 10 the statute of the free trade union Solidarity had been approved and thus the legitimacy of the crisis and of the specific activities of this union had been recognized."

It escaped nobody, the Pope continued, that Solidarity was born at a difficult moment for Poland, in part as manifestation of the sense of responsibility of the workers, and of the desire to accept the specific responsibilities deriving from hard work.

Hopes were momentarily disappointed, the difficulties and obstacles created and the harsh restrictions imposed not only on members of Solidarity but on all the population "cannot make us forget that this union has acquired, and possesses all the character of authentic representation of the workers, recognized and confirmed by the organs of power."

He made clear his feeling that the union was not political in the sense of a search for political power in society, but in the nature of a general social importance.

The two speeches — of the Pope and of the Primate — are taken here to provide a composite picture of the line and the areas of activity in the Catholic Church's work in Poland.

They can be taken as marking the essence of the long series of talks which the Pope has had here with the Polish bishops. He is still clearly in the process of listening to his appeal for reinstatement of the union and an end to fundamental rights.

Poles turn East for more help

Warsaw, Feb 9. — Polish planners are turning to the East for more help in coping up the country's collapsing economy because of the West's firm reaction to military rule.

General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the military leader, has ordered his experts to work out by next month interim measures to reduce the excessive dependence of industry on imports, and a programme for expanding economic cooperation with Comecon, the Soviet bloc's trading community.

The turn away from the West has been dictated by economic sanctions and suspension of new credits by the United States and its allies, which have dealt severe blows to prospects of reviving flagging industrial and farm production, senior Polish officials say.

The Western measures, demonstrating disapproval of the suspension of civic rights and internment of thousands of government opponents, have left the Poles even shorter than they expected of hard currency to purchase raw materials and other supplies for their Western-equipped plants and food for the 36 million people.

The change of economic emphasis was embodied in a programme approved by the Council of Ministers last Friday.

General Jaruzelski told provincial officials in Warsaw yesterday that Poland was relying on further aid from communist countries to help to strengthen its economy.

He also called for a comprehensive, long-range plan for overcoming the crisis to be ready by the autumn. This would aim at restructuring the economy so that Poland regained its economic sovereignty and made better use of its own raw materials.

A plan for some of Poland's Comecon partners to exploit left production capacity in Polish industry, aimed already last year without any apparent significant result, has been revived and was advanced at a meeting of a Comecon planning commission in Havana last month, official press reports here said. Reuters.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Nixon fails to halt use of tapes

Washington — A United States appeals court has dismissed former President Nixon's appeal that the Federal government is acting illegally in processing his White House tape recordings for eventual public screenings.

The court also ruled that the Government was using proper and constitutional methods to separate Mr. Nixon's "Diary" recordings, which will be returned to him on privacy grounds, from other recordings that will be made available to the public at 11 designated centres.

The panel's decision upheld a ruling by lower Federal courts. Mr. Nixon had claimed that the processing violated his constitutional right to personal privacy, political privacy and the Presidential privilege of confidentiality.

The tape recordings played at the Watergate trials are already available for public listening in Washington, they constitute only a portion of Mr. Nixon's White House tape recordings.

Scuffling as spy leaves

Jakarta — Indonesian authorities had hoped to keep the expulsion of the Soviet military attaché, Lieutenant Colonel S. P. Egerov, but were forced to make the incident public after an airport scuffle, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Colonel Egerov was ordered to leave within 24 hours. He was accused of espionage. But while he was being seen off at Halim airport on Saturday night, Indonesian security officials approached him. Alexander, a member of the Indonesian Air Force, the Soviet air line, with a warrant for his arrest and a fight ensued.

Bonn exceeds Nato target

Bonn — The West German Government has announced that contrary to expectations the increase in its defence spending last year was higher than the Nato target of 3 per cent.

Herr Kurt Becker, the Government spokesman, disclosed that the increase was 5.2 per cent nominally and 3.1 per cent in real terms. Nevertheless, forecasts that the target will not be met in 1982 and doubts about the value of increased spending for its own sake have created a strong impression, particularly in the United States, that West Germany is dragging its feet in this field.

Robbers grow more deadly

New York — More robberies in New York are ending with murder, in what police describe as a growing wave of violence by criminals who are better armed and increasingly ready to shoot their victims.

A police analysis says robbery-related killings in the city increased by 36 per cent between 1976 and 1980 with 1,011 people killed by hand-guns in 1980, compared with 765 people in 1976. The national figures dropped slightly.

Picket broken by armed men

Caen. — A private army led by the owner and carrying guns and tear gas broke through a picketing line of dairy men here to rescue 70,000 camembert cheeses.

The 125 staff at the dairy had planned to sell the cheeses because they claimed they had not been paid for January. The picketing broke through the factory for a week, demanding a shorter working week. The workers have now started court proceedings.

Cosmetics blast kills three

Hanau, West Germany. — At least three people were killed and six were missing when an explosion badly damaged a cosmetics factory at Bruchköbel, near here. Twenty were injured, 18 of whom were taken to hospital.

There were ten people inside the plant when the explosion occurred in the mixing room of Kosmetikfabrik Reinelt, a company producing hair sprays, liquid soap and body lotions. The injured included passers-by and staff arriving for the day shift. Herr Udo Mueller, the manager, said.

Jazzman in coma

Englewood, New Jersey. — The jazz pianist, Thelonious Monk, was reported in a coma in an intensive care unit here after suffering a stroke, officials said.

Correction

A report of statistics issued by the Wine Development Board (February 2) stated incorrectly that sales of light wines were 95 per cent up. In fact the board said light wines went up but gave no figure.

Weinberger signs up reluctant Saudis

Muscat, Feb 9. — The United States and Saudi Arabia have agreed to establish a joint committee on military matters, Mr Caspar Weinberger, the United States Defence Secretary, announced today.

The group, called the Joint Committee for Military Projects, was set up after long and apparently tough negotiations. It had been long-sought by Washington, and United States officials said it was the Saudis' clearest move yet towards public military cooperation with United States.

One high official described it as "more formalized, structured relationship". Its establishment, he said, was announced by Mr Weinberger at a joint press conference in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia with Prince Sultan Ibn Abdulaziz the Saudi Defence Minister. Mr Weinberger then flew to Oman, the second stop on a nine-day, three-country Middle East tour.

While both sides said they were pleased with their talks, totalling more than 12 hours over three days, Prince Sultan did not mention the military committee and made clear they did not see eye to eye on every issue, particularly Israel.

The Prince said he had urged the Reagan administration to take a strong stand against "stupid action taken by Israel", apparently referring to recent Israeli moves such as its annexation of the Golan Heights and the bombing of Iraq's nuclear reactor.

"These are provocative actions and we hope that the administration of President Reagan will take a stand, because it has stronger relations with Israel," the prince said.

Mr Weinberger said only that he had raised with the prince "the vital necessity of the United States having warm friendly relationships with several countries in the Middle East and not confining our friendships to one country".

A spokesman later said that Mr Weinberger had identified both Israel and Saudi Arabia as friends of America in the region.

American officials would not say, however, that they had signed a formal agreement in which Saudi Arabia pledged to respect conditions set by Congress last October when it agreed after a bitter battle to sell the Saudis five Awacs.

Mr Weinberger also said for the first time in public that American Awacs will remain on station in Saudi Arabia until the Saudis' own aircraft arrive in late 1985.

Although Prince Sultan said nothing about the new committee he appeared to play down military ties between the two countries, saying that a cooperative relationship was based not on "military endeavour" but areas such as economics and technology. — Reuters.

Jerusalem: Israel "will never descend from the Golan Heights," Mr Yitzhak Shamir the Foreign Minister said today in a stinging rejection of the United Nations resolution calling for an international boycott of the Jewish state following its annexation of the territory (ACP reports).

Euro-MPs move towards sanctions on S Africa

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Feb 9

The European Commission has been asked by the joint committee of the European Parliament and the Lomé countries to prepare a report analysing the effects of economic sanctions against South Africa. Arms and nuclear embargoes are already envisaged by the committee.

The request is just one part of a detailed and hard-hitting resolution agreed, with five abstentions among the 102 delegates, after a fact-finding mission to the front line states at the end of last month by a small mission from the joint committee.

The resolution says that "economic sanctions have to be incorporated into a programme of increasing pressure on South Africa". It adds that there should be an end to economic expansion and investment there and says that any state "which on account of major difficulties cannot apply such sanctions fully should at least agree to the gradual implementation of such measures".

The resolution was described by Signor Giovanni Barisani, the parliament group leader as "a great step

forward in the fight against apartheid". It was the first time, he said, that a parliamentary institution had taken a common stance to establish a programme of action for the problems of southern Africa.

It was adopted in Salisbury, Zimbabwe, during the regular meeting between the parliament and Lomé states. While there it was announced that around £2m of EEC aid was to be made available to help South-West Africa People's Organisation refugees and for a training programme for Swapo youths in Denmark.

Copies are to be forwarded to the United Nations Secretary General, to the European Commission and to the Council of Ministers.

European trade with South Africa in 1980		Imports Exports	
West Germany	987.3	1,019.4	
Britain	742.7	935.9	
France	479	388.9	
Italy	594.1	239.1	
Belgium/Luxembourg	1,017.1	102.2	
Denmark	64	23.2	
Ireland	8.9	9.1	



Tommy Manotoc (left) and the Philippine Defence Minister face the press

Manotoc tells of rescue raid

From David Watts, Singapore, Feb 9

Tommy Manotoc, the Filipino sportsman who was kidnapped three weeks after a secret wedding to the daughter of President Marcos, reappeared in Manila today claiming that he had been held by communist guerrillas.

Mr Manotoc, a basketball coach and amateur golfer, appeared at a press conference flanked by Mr Juan Ponce Enrile, the Defence Minister, to tell of how he had been freed last night after a raid on the guerrillas' camp in the mountains east of Manila.

But his story did little to throw light on the circumstances of the case which had cast suspicion on the Marcos family who were opposed to his marriage to the President's daughter, Imee.

The couple were married in Arlington, Virginia, on December 4 after a clandestine courtship in the Philippines. Mr Enrile told the press that in the attack by a special military group on alleged

brother claims was a forged signature on the first of the two notes; and psychics warning the family against certain actions.

The whole affair was made more intriguing by the fact that the Philippine authorities operated a virtual news blackout on the case. Despite claims by the President that there was a big manhunt in progress, basic investigation was not carried out.

Mrs Imelda Marcos appears to have been opposed to the marriage. Mr Manotoc's brother, Ricardo, told *The Times* in an interview last week that the first the family had heard of the kidnapping was when Imee called the following day December 30 to give the news.

Mr Ricardo Manotoc said that after he spoke to Imee, President Marcos came on the line to tell him that he had the armed forces on alert. He quoted him as saying: "Please be discreet. Don't report it to the police."

Several ministers have insisted that president Mitterrand's election slogan to "reconvert the domestic market" does not mean that France will block imports to protect its hard hit electronics, wood, toy, leather and domestic appliances industries.

French try to reassure business

Paris, Feb 9. — M Michel Rocard, the Minister of Planning and standard bearer of the right wing of the French Socialist Party, assured French and American industrialists today that the Government could control its Communist ministers.

"We are the first generation of Socialists not to be intimidated by the Communists. The days have gone when Socialists and Communists met and Communists always won," he told 300 businessmen at a conference on the Government's economic policies.

M Rocard, who last year challenged M Francois Mitterrand for the party's presidential nomination, said the French Communist Party was in decline despite the presence of four Communist ministers in the Cabinet.

Nine socialist ministers led by Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister have been driving home the message during the two-day meeting that the Socialists do not oppose big business and want to encourage new industrial investments in France in order to create jobs.

Several ministers have insisted that president Mitterrand's election slogan to "reconvert the domestic market" does not mean that France will block imports to protect its hard hit electronics, wood, toy, leather and domestic appliances industries.

IRA's smuggling route watched for 18 months

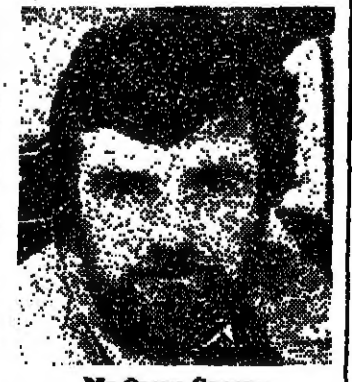
From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 9

United States immigration officials revealed today that they have kept watch on a highly sophisticated Provisional IRA smuggling route between America and Northern Ireland for at least 18 months. Senior Royal Ulster Constabulary officers in Northern Ireland apparently cooperated closely in helping to identify the people involved.

The United States Department of Immigration decided to expose the route. Exposure comes at a time when Mr Owen Carron, Republican MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone and Mr Danny Morrison, publicity officer for Provisional Sinn Féin in Belfast, are facing charges of entering the country illegally. They are due to be taken to the United States to face the charges on March 8.

Prominence is given to the exposure of the route because immigration officials said they had discovered a safe house in Toronto used by Irish Republicans. The procedure involved the use of either forged passports or legitimate passports containing false details and photographs.

Five Belfast men, three of them Canadian residents, arrested as they crossed the Whirlpool Bridge near Niagara Falls from Canada to the United States on Saturday were still in custody tonight. Mr Roger Williams, the United States district attorney, was studying evidence supplied by the Depart-



Mr Owen Carron
ment of Immigration before deciding whether to charge the men with illegal immigration with intent to commit a crime.

At least a dozen smuggling operations by Irish Republicans have been allowed to pass unhindered in the past 18 months in order to piece together precise details of then operation.

A discovery of equipment capable of producing an almost exact replica of the official Irish stamp has delighted the Department of Immigration. One source said: "It was used to stamp the passport photographs. It would be difficult to tell it from the real thing. It was very professional."

The Department of Immigration established a special anti-smuggling unit in the Buffalo area close to the Canadian border in New York State 18 months ago after the arrest of an Ulster man

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Reagan defends his budget in the 'heartland'

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, Feb 9

"You have to get about 50 miles at least away from Washington to get to the real world", President Reagan declared to loud applause at a fund-raising function in Minneapolis last night.

Making his first political tour since 1980, Mr Reagan decided to get well away from the capital, to the Middle West, to the snow-covered plains of Minnesota, Iowa and Indiana which comprise America's "heartland".

The main purpose of this trip is to sell to the nation his concept known as "new federalism" which was at the centre of last month's State of the Union address. Under this plan 43 federal programmes covering transport, education and community developments would be returned to the states.

However, in speeches delivered in Minneapolis and Des Moines, the President spent as much time defending his controversial 1983 budget proposals as he did promoting federalism.

President Reagan apparently believes that opposition to his budget, which called for massive cuts in social programmes and equally massive increases in defence spending, is coming mainly from "elitists" and "pundits" in Washington, New York and other eastern cities.

However, the noisy demonstrations which greeted him in Minneapolis and Des Moines showed there is also great concern among ordinary working people in the "heartland" about spending cuts, defence increases and the President's failure to address himself to the country's most pressing problem: unemployment.

"The President seems to be completely out of touch with what life is like for us," said

Mr Robert Milner, one of the Minneapolis demonstration organisers. But the President was moved by this display of dissatisfaction. In his speeches he made it clear he was not going to cut defence spending. "We will not back down from our commitment to make America strong enough to remain both free and at peace".

Nor was he going to give in to pressure to raise taxes because the tax cuts already approved by Congress were an essential part of his economic programme. Mr Reagan chose to come to the rural Middle West because most people around here vote Republican and his pledge to "return government to be governed" seemed certain to appeal to their sense of independence and local pride.

However, judging from initial reaction, the President will have to sell his "new federalism" theme with more verve and vigour if it is to supercede economic problems as the main issue in the November mid-term elections.

President Reagan emphasized that his programme to restore the partnership between state, local and federal government was born from the same philosophy as his economic recovery plan. "They spring from an abiding faith in the American dream and our ability to govern ourselves," he told the state legislature in Des Moines.

He emphasized how an increasing number of local matters, such as fire protection, police pensions and pothole repairs, had been taken over by central government. Although the original intentions of big government had been good, the result had been overwhelming inefficiency and waste.

Nkomo followers taken to task over arms

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Feb 9

Military leaders of the main opposition party in Zimbabwe have been summoned by Mr Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister, and asked to explain how tons of military hardware came to be hidden during last year's operation to disarm former guerrillas.

The weapons, sufficient to arm a brigade and including anti-aircraft guns, ground-to-air missiles and automatic rifles, were found last week on farms linked with the Patriotic Front of Mr Joshua Nkomo.

In an interview in Bulawayo yesterday, Mr Nkomo denied that he or his party were aware that arms had been hidden at the farms and said they might have been concealed "by some person to be discovered at a convenient time."

He said Mr Mugabe's speech at the weekend accusing the Patriotic Front of plotting against the ruling Zanu (PF) party was "unfortunate" and denied categorically that his party planned any rebellion.

Referring to the discovery of the arms on farms owned by the Patriotic Front, he said: "We have been in the hide and seek business for 30 years. After that we would not be caught with weapons in our own house."

Mr Nkomo's denials will not convince Zanu (PF) members that the quantity of

Odinga hits out at government

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, Feb 9

Mr Oginga Odinga, a former Vice-President of Kenya, who has been barred from political office since forming a short-lived opposition party in 1968, today publicly attacked the government's economic policies and its agreement to grant military facilities to the United States.

Kenya agreed last year to provide supply and storage facilities for American nuclear forces in the Indian Ocean, and has long had close and friendly relations with the British Army, which has carried out training operations in Kenya on several occasions.

Mr Odinga was speaking at a press conference in Nairobi today. He had been attacked by Mr Stanley Oloitiptip, the Minister of Local Government and a member of the Masai tribe, for his role in his own Luo tribe.

Criticizing Mr Oloitiptip for allegedly failing to give clear leadership to Kenyans, Mr Odinga said there had been "systematic plunder" of Kenya's resources, and there was now mass unemployment.

"Attempts to explain away this sorry state of affairs in terms of high oil prices and international inflation are unacceptable."

Expressing regret at difficulties in Kenya's relations with neighbouring African countries, he said that the granting of military facilities to a foreign power without the consent of the people had helped to erode those relations.

Strike ban under fire in India

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi, Feb 9

The Communists are the first to criticize the Central Government's decision to declare 16 categories of industries as essential services under the National Security Act.

The industries include road, rail, water and air transport and telecommunication services. Forty-six private and public undertakings were declared as essential services a few months ago.

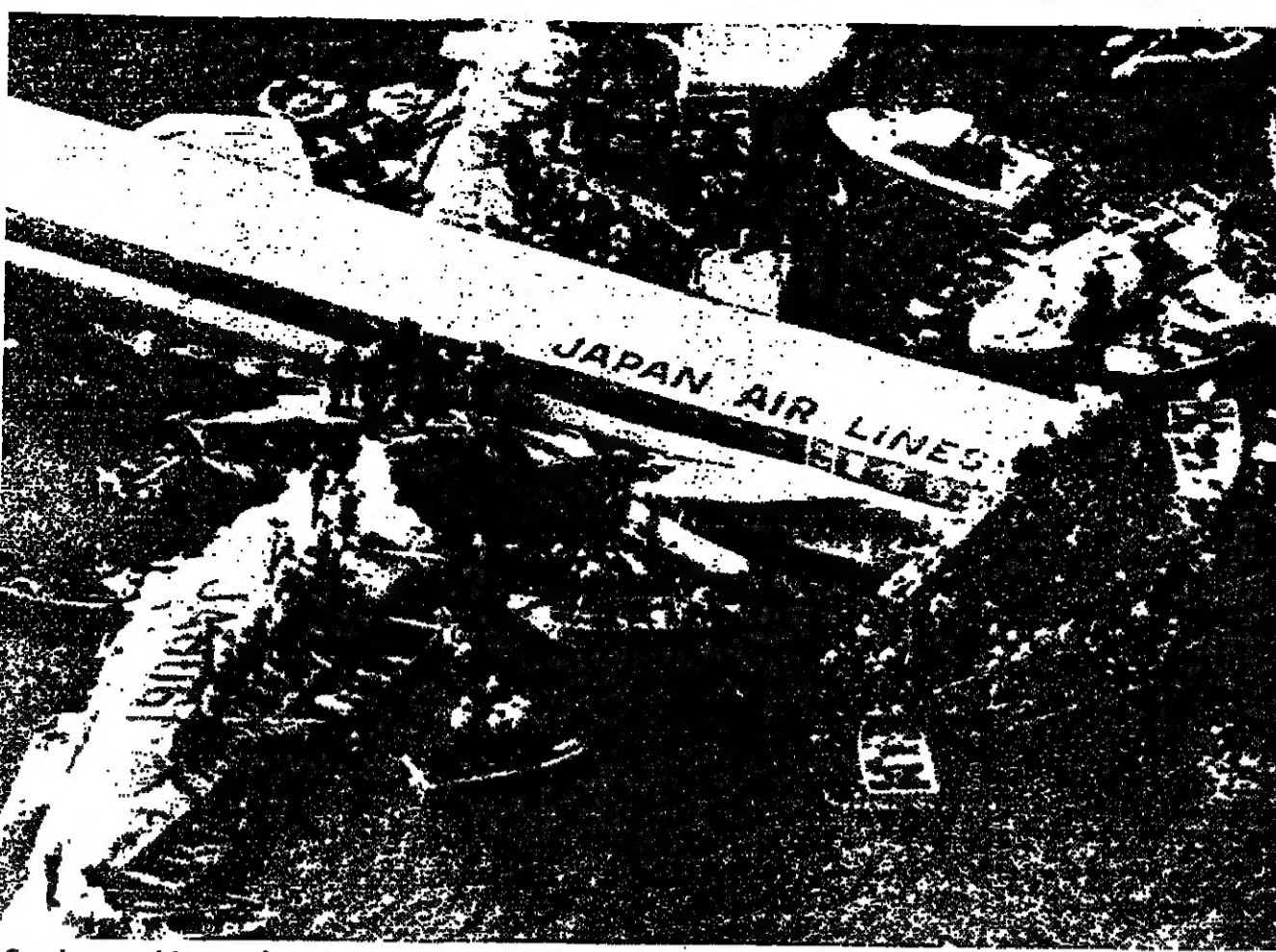
Workers in essential services cannot go on strike and those who try can be detained without trial.

The new decision of the Government was necessitated by a Supreme Court judgment that no one could be held without trial on charges of prejudicing supplies and services unless what was considered essential by the Government was made known to the public in advance.

Defence services, defence production and customs services are also covered by the central Government's decision.

The Communists have said that the Government was out to suppress ruthlessly the fundamental right of the working class to strike.

Meanwhile, Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, has said that chief executives who fail to show adequate performance in the public sector should be removed. Her emphasis is on production and she has spoken out against all forms of disruption.



Survivors waiting on the wings of the stricken aircraft and, below, an aerial photograph showing the runway.

Airliner crashed 300 yds short of the runway

By Our Foreign Staff

"All is normal", the Japanese airlines pilot said yesterday as he made his final swing across Tokyo Bay before landing. Then the radio went dead.

A playback of the recorded conversation between the Mameda airport control tower and Captain Seiji Katagiri ended with a voice in the tower vainly calling for him to make contact.

The JAL DC8 aircraft carrying 174 passengers and crew crashed 300 yards short of the runway. Twenty-four people died and 150 were injured, 78 of them seriously. The flight deck was sheared off and rammed back into the fuselage.

About a mile from touchdown the aircraft suddenly lost height, and hit the sea plunging across the surface snapping landing lights like matchsticks.

Captain Katagiri is in a serious condition in hospital. The co-pilot and other crew all survived but were badly injured.

All but one of the passengers on board the flight from Fukuoka city were Japanese. The foreigner was an official of Korean Airlines, JAL said.

Fishing boats and inflatable rescue craft rushed to the stricken aircraft slowly sinking in shallow water. The survivors struggled on to the wings to be rescued.

Fire department helicopters trailing slings and nets took turns to lift them off. Eight hours after the crash the last person on board, an unidentified crew member, was winched to safety.

Rescuers said an engine of the DC8 may have sucked in one of the many seabirds which rest on the approach beacons. But Miss Eriko Ito, a stewardess aged 24, said she heard no engine sounds to indicate a bird strike.

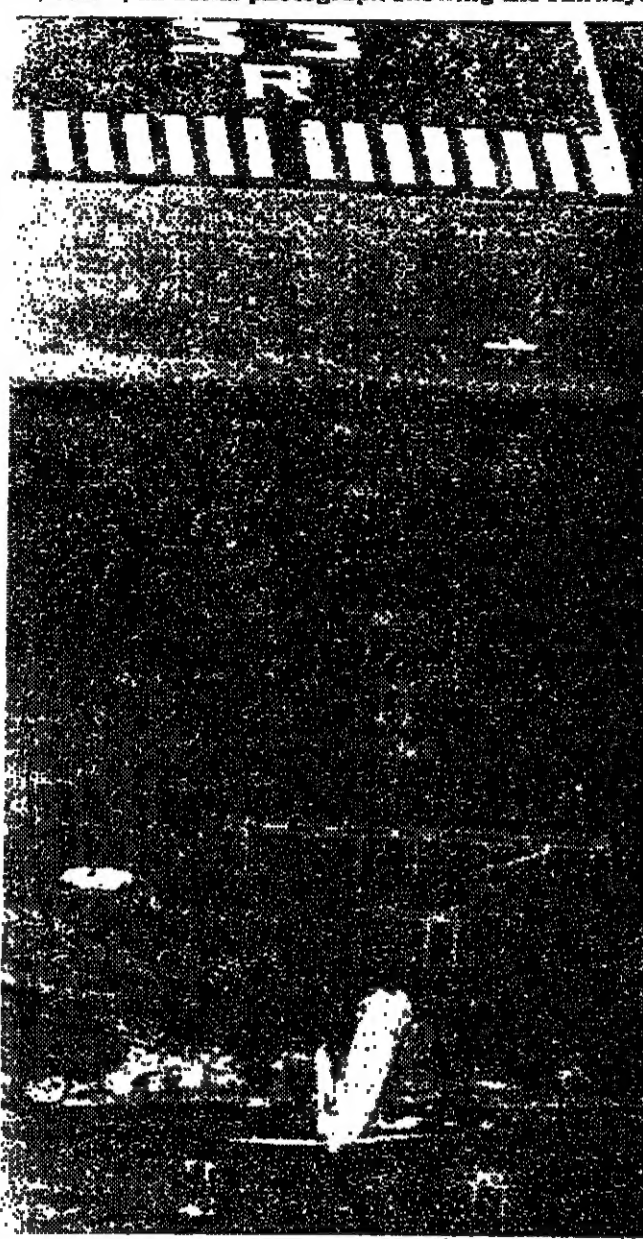
"The plane was in a normal attitude for landing", she said, adding that she was knocked to the floor by the impact of the crash and struggled to her feet as water rushed in.

A lorry driver, Mr Hides Ishihara said: "The aircraft suddenly dropped and struck some semi-submerged landing lights. It slid across the water striking other metal lamps and came to rest in shallow water about 300 yards short of the runway."

The commander of an All Nippon Airways Tristar which landed ahead of the DC8 said the weather was clear and he experienced no problems with the wind.

Japan Airlines has enjoyed an accident free record for the past 10 years since one of its DC8 airliners crashed at Moscow airport in November, 1972, killing 62 people.

Japan's worst air disaster occurred in 1971 when an Air Force fighter crashed into a Boeing 727 in mid-air, killing 162 passengers and crew.



German dons seek racial purity

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, Feb 9

A group of West German university professors have called for action to stop the infiltration of the German people by foreign workers.

In terms reminiscent of the Nazis the 15 professors issued a manifesto calling for the founding of a politically and ideologically independent association for the preservation of the German people and its spiritual identity.

They suggested the Government should "Strike at the root of the evil" by improving the foreign workers' life, through development aid in their home countries "and not here with us".

They did not say the repatriation of West German residents was to be achieved. But the foreigners' return would bring the country not only social but also ecological relief, according to the professors.

The manifesto was drawn up last year by a group of professors calling themselves the Heidelberg Circle and circulated among colleagues with a request for signatures and financial support. Not yet intended for publication, it was leaked to the press apparently by left-wingers who found a copy in a Bonn telephone box.

The language was chillingly similar to the racist jargon of the early Nazi era. "Peoples", it said "Are living systems of a higher order with different characteristics - characteristics that are passed on genetically and by tradition. It speaks of the well-known ethnic catastrophes of polycultural societies."

"Every people, including the German people, has a natural right to its own identity and characteristics in its own living area. Only vibrant and intact German families can preserve our people for the future."

The professors insisted that they firmly support the democratic constitution and that they were against any form of nationalism, racism or political extremism.

Evidently upset by the adverse reaction in the press 11 of the professors issued a statement yesterday saying the text of the manifesto had merely been a provisional one. The adverse criticism they claimed was the result of "a defamation campaign by radical leftists".

Nevertheless, they insisted that there would be very serious conflicts in West Germany if the Government did not tackle the problem.

The manifesto has confirmed the Government's growing fears that the numbers of foreign workers and dependents here will breed racialism and social tensions without wise handling.

Brought in to supply much needed manpower during the years of the economic miracle, the foreigners are less welcome in a recession with the jobless figures creeping up to two million.

There is already much resentment among the German neighbours in the working class areas where they tend to congregate. A particular problem are the huge numbers of Turks, who with their very different customs and traditions, are less willing than European foreign workers to be assimilated into German society.

Carrington impressed by Asean

From David Watts, Singapore, Feb 9

Lord Carrington ended his tour of the five countries of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) in Singapore tonight more aware of the complexities of the struggle for Cambodia. Encouraged by the dynamism and stability of Asean, but with little prospect that difficulties with Malaysia will be eased in the medium-term.

The Foreign Secretary's talks in the five capitals have been with the heads of state and of government of each one and have covered the whole gamut of interests from trade and investment to the East-West power balance.

Fortunately he was in the area just as the Khmer Rouge rejected proposals to join the loose coalition of Khmer oppositionists. Thus he has had the unusual experience of watching Asean policy at first hand begin to shape for the next stage of the struggle for the future of Cambodia.

From the refugee camps on the Thai-Cambodian border to the high-tech technology of an exhibition of offshore oil technology in Singapore, where Britain was the largest exhibitor, the Foreign Secretary has seen Asean and confronted Whitehall's most pressing regional problem - trading relations with Malaysia.

He did not expect to achieve a breakthrough and, judging by the generally hostile reaction of the Malaysian press to the proceedings, it will take a long time before there is any prospects that Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister, will consider lifting his prohibition on government purchase of British goods when there are comparable alternatives.

Not even the Archangel Gabriel could have changed Dr Mahathir's attitude in an hour, the Foreign Secretary said in a radio interview today. At best, the British government has bought the problems out in the open and clarified at least some of the misunderstandings.

At his final press conference tonight he hinted strongly that the countries of Asean might start concentrating on the "third force" idea of building up the Khmer People's National Liberation Front of Mr Son Sann and Prince Sihanouk's Moulineka.

notably on the rules of both the London Stock and Metal Exchanges, much of what he said fell on stony ground.

The best the two sides could manage at the end of their meeting was to express the hope that it would help to improve matters. There were, however, no plans for further meetings and the matter now rests with the Malaysians, who have before them the joint commission set up in an attempt to anticipate future problems and neutralize them before they become unmanageable.

The resolution of the other principle issue, in Lord Carrington's talks, the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia, could well take years.

Letter from Brussels

Obstinate lifts test Community spirit

It is easier to get in to the Commission building than it is to get up it, or for that matter down it. This basic fact of Community life is something which nine Portuguese politicians and officials found out the hard way recently when they were stuck in the lift at the Berlaymont Building.

It is possible that during their 25 minutes jammed between floors they had time to reflect on whether they were being given a pointed hint that their negotiations to join the EEC were likely to end up nowhere.

Symbolically enough, one report claimed they were stuck between the tenth and eleventh floors in the Ten's administrative headquarters.

It takes time, patience and understanding to come to terms with the acceptably obstinate lifts which are meant to deliver Eurocrats, secretaries and Commission hangers-on to the appropriate level of their working life.

Community lifts come in two sizes. There is the compact six-person (average 80 kilogramme or 12½ stone each) variety which lines the back of the entrance hall. It was in one of these that the Portuguese came to grief. Nine of them weighed a sufficient amount over the statutory 480 permitted kilograms that the struggling lift ground to a halt.

Then in the hallways behind the entrance foyer lurk the giant economy 18-person (average 77.7 kilogramme each) variety which stop - from time to time - at the actual floors.

The small lifts tend to be the more popular, not because the average harmonized Community lift-passenger weighs 80 rather than 77.7 kilograms, but because they are slightly more accessible. They also have green strip-lights round their doors, rather like those round a sleazy nightclub entrance, which flash on and off when they arrive, which is not often.

The arrival of a Commission lift is a relatively rare occurrence. Indicator lights chart their progress as they climb and descend the building, leaping from floor to floor. But it would delight a man from Ladbroke if anyone could gather in the bets on which one is likely to arrive first.

The long wait for a lift means there is usually a crowd in excess of six, or with a cumulative weight above 480 kilograms.

when the flashing green lights eventually announce a lift's arrival. As the Portuguese found, the lifts do not take kindly to being overloaded.

The problems are not confined to Portuguese novices. Even experienced Europeans come to grief in lifts. Last week Viscount Exmae Desmignot, a commissioner since 1977, told a news conference that he had been stuck in a lift with the secretary of one of his fellow commissioners. "Neither of us have been quite the same since", he admitted.

Usually they emit a buzz like a baritone bee as their sensitive floors realize that excess baggage has come on board. It is here that the experienced Community lift passenger comes into his own. One method of stifling the buzz and starting the journey is for a strong member of the lift-crowd to seize the handrails round the side and hold his feet off the sensitive floor. The lift, presumably having satisfied itself that only the regulation 12 feet are on board, shuts its doors and sets off.

Sometimes actually climbing safely on board a lift is in itself enough to make the journey. A month or so ago, when Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, visited the Berlaymont, his security men checked the lifts, with discouraging results for those who wanted to leave his news conference and tell the world what he had been saying.

A large 77.7 kilogramme-per-person lift arrived at the first floor just as the conference broke up, and the regulation number, give or take one or two, squeezed on board. The lift set off upwards. At each of the 12 remaining floors it stopped unbidden, opened up and waited for passengers who either never came or who could not get in.

At the thirteenth floor it paused respectfully among the commissioners and then set off down again, stopping dutifully at each floor. It arrived at the ground floor 12½ minutes after leaving the first floor.

It might be wondered why anyone should bother to take a lift up one flight of stairs. The answer is that the stairs in the Berlaymont are so well hidden most people do not know where they are.

Ian Murray

Nunn wins opening chess game

By Harry Golombek

The English players got off to a fine start in the West European zonal tournament which began at Marbella, Spain, on Monday. The event is the first step in a series of qualifying tournaments for the world championships, and out of the 22 contestants at Marbella, three go on to play in the inter-zonal contest later this year.

Both English players won their games in Group A; the grandmaster John Nunn beating Gomez (Andorra) and Nigel Short beating Seret of France.

Other results: Langeweg (Netherlands) 1; Doyle (Ireland) 0; Van der Wiel (Netherlands) 1; Galego (Spain) 0; McNab (Scotland) 0; Fernandez (Spain) 1; Ligerink (Netherlands) had the bye.

English players were also successful in group B where the grandmaster Michael Stean beat Van der Sterren (Netherlands) and Mark Hebden won against Klauer of Luxembourg.

The third English player, the international master Jonathan Mestel, is clearly winning in his twice-adjourned game against Meuldere (Belgium).

Other results: Rivas (Spain) beat I. C. Jones (Wales); the game between the grandmaster Donner (Netherlands) and Blow (Jersey and Guernsey) was postponed because Donner was indisposed. Sanz (Spain) had the bye.

EEC court rules on pop record

From Our Own Correspondent, Brussels, Feb 9

Two versions of the Bee Gees pop group's record "Spirits Having Flown" have been occupying the attention of judges at the European Court recently. After an involved hearing, the court today decided which of the two should be sold in European shops and which should be excluded.

The dispute began when the British company RSO handed over its British rights in the record to Polydor, one of its subsidiaries, and at the same time licences to two Portuguese companies to manufacture the same record.

The Portuguese records were significantly cheaper than those being made in Britain and a British importer, Simons, bought the cheaper version and imported it into Britain.

Polydor and RSO claimed that the Portuguese records were breaking the law and asked for a ban on their sale. The British Court of Appeal ruled that marketing the Portuguese records constituted a violation of the Copyright Act.

The European Court decided that the Portuguese records could not benefit from the rights of free circulation of goods available to records made in the member states. Therefore RSO and Polydor were quite correct in opposing their sale.

Distributor bans sale of The Times in Turkey

Ankara - In a move described as "precautionary self-censorship," two British newspapers, and a French paper were not distributed in Turkey by their importing agent. A spokesman for the agent, the Turkish Hachette, listed the papers as *The Guardian*, *The Times* and *Le Matin*.

The spokesman, who would not be named said that the three newspapers were not distributed to Turkish subscribers as a "precaution" in line with a recent military edict which forbids reprinting by the local media of foreign press news items unfavourable to Turkey.

A martial law command spokesman in Istanbul said they had issued no orders in connection with the distribution of foreign newspapers.

The Hachette spokesman would not say what it was that they found objectionable in the latest editions of the three newspapers. The company runs bookstores in Istanbul and Ankara and handles the distribution throughout Turkey of most foreign publications.

Since the Army ousted the civilian government in Turkey 16 months ago, restrictions have been placed on the Turkish press. A military communiqué issued in June, 1981 bans all political controversy and discussion of past, present and future, this applies to foreign politicians as well as to the media.

However, there is no pre-publication censorship. Newspaper editors have been advised to exercise "self-control" along guidelines set by the military. -AP

Minister's reasonable use of Draconian power upheld

Regina v Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Norwich City Council

Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice May

[Judgment delivered February 9]

The Secretary of State for the Environment, Ex parte Norwich City Council. The court considered the Secretary of State's power to acquire land for housing purposes under the Housing Act 1969.

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How the rape law really works

The 1976 Sexual Offences Act was designed to protect rape victims from unnecessary cross-examination about their previous sexual experience. But

is it working in practice? Zsuzsanna Adler sat in on 50 Old Bailey rape cases last year to find out. This is her disturbing report.



Mr Justice Kilner-Brown and the Recorder of London, Mr James Miskin, QC: different views of how the law should be interpreted.

judge to decide whether or not such evidence is relevant in any particular case. Not surprisingly, wide discretion has led to a very uneven implementation of the law. I found that while some judges, adhered to the spirit of the 1976 Act, others tended to interpret it in a rather narrow way and sometimes disregarded it altogether.

Judge Brian Gibbons voiced his disapproval of the Act in no uncertain terms: "I think it might be unfair, perhaps even more so in an older woman, to prevent cross-examination on sexual proclivities, but that is what Parliament wants...."

The defence often tried to show that the woman put herself in a risky situation in order to shift the blame for the defendant's actions. In that particular case, the jury was not convinced.

When the alleged victim did not report the rape at the very first opportunity, her case was always regarded with great doubt.

"Afterwards," she doesn't go to the police, or anyone in the street to complain. She doesn't complain to her mother, which would have been normal. Is her conduct afterwards consistent with a person who was raped, or who consented?"

Apart from adding to the horrors of cross-examination, a late report seemed to have quite an impact on the outcome of the trial. Convictions were significantly reduced when an immediate complaint was made; and where there was a delay of more than 24 hours, the defendant was nearly always acquitted.

Early reporting, however, did not mean that the woman would necessarily be believed. One woman, allegedly raped in a house in middle-class suburbia, ran naked into the street, screaming for help, in broad daylight. Nevertheless, the jury felt that she had consented and her assailant was acquitted.

If, as these examples at discrediting the complainant and impeaching her credibility were not enough to sway the jury, the judge's corroboration warning often seemed to tip the scales against her. Although corroboration is not required in law, courts always warn the jury about the dangers of convicting on the woman's word alone. Some judges managed to do this in relatively neutral terms, to convey that sexual offences are not to be taken lightly. Others, however, were loaded and prejudicial, rather like this one:

"Human experience in the law courts has shown that woman and girls, for all sorts of reasons and sometimes for no reason at all, tell a false story which is extremely easy to fabricate but extremely difficult to refute."

Although the recent publicity surrounding rape has focussed on apparently exceptional and unusual cases, my experience suggests that attention should be directed at what happens in court on an everyday basis to the more "ordinary" cases. The victim continues to be on trial just as much, if not more, than the defendant.

She gets the blame for what happened, on the grounds that she asked for it and probably deserved it anyway. While the defendant's rights must clearly be protected, the victim also deserves to be treated with dignity in a quality which certainly is not a distinguishing mark of current courtroom practice.

© Times Newspapers Limited, 1982.

The author is conducting research at Bedford College, London, into the operation of the 1976 Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act.

their part. Consider, for example, the following questions:

"Were you in the habit of going to pubs by yourself in the evening?"

"At the disco, you just danced with anybody and everybody, didn't you?"

"Were you quite happy to accept a lift home from him?"

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A rape victim faces cross-examination: a scene from a dramatization of a rape trial, to be shown on LWT's Weekend World this Sunday.

Interview

Keeping one jump ahead of the rest

A new company launches itself at the Haymarket Theatre tonight, with a brave choice of play and the versatile Trevor Peacock making a rare West End appearance. Sheridan Morley investigates.

The Theatre Royal, Haymarket, has in its long and distinguished stage history seen many attempts to form a permanent company there; Gielgud ran a legendary one in the 1940s, and more recently, in the middle 1960s, Richard Johnson was at the head of a more shortlived Haymarket Rep. A few months ago, ambitious plans were announced for a Robin Phillips-Derek Jacobi season which came to nothing; but now, at last, the Haymarket is to have its own resident team once again for a series of at least three new productions running through until the end of the summer under the auspices of Triumph Productions.

They open tomorrow with *Hobson's Choice*, a brave starter not only because it has in living memory had acclaimed revivals at both the National and (only a few months ago) the Lyric, Hammersmith, but also because in casting Penelope Keith as Maggie Hobson the director Ronald Eyre has taken his new company's most immediately recognizable commercial asset and given her a stage image which may not altogether chime with the expectations of television viewers awaiting another jolly Home Counties lady to the manor born.

Nevertheless Eyre has surrounded her with a strong team led by Anthony Quayle as old Hobson and, as Willie Mossop, the actor-composer-lyricist Trevor Peacock, for whom this will be a rare West End appearance.

The second son of a Tottenham evangelist (the other one became an assistant headmaster), Peacock went through Enfield Grammar doing impressions of his teachers and graduated from that to running the garrison theatre in Didcot during his national service; from early childhood, there had not been much doubt about a career. "My father would occasionally take us on family outings to 'suitable' plays at the Intimate in Palmer's Green. One night two fellows came on in the first act and the first one mentioned the word 'brother' and father said 'Right, that's it, everybody out' and we all had to leave."

Soon after leaving the army, however, he met the pop director Jack Good and the two of them began doing an eccentric double act, first for Clement Freud's club on top of the Royal Court in Sloane Square and from there to the Windmill. "It was a very erudite sketch about an old Oxford

professor and his pupil. God knows why Van Damm books us, but there we were at three o'clock on a Monday afternoon trying to raise a laugh out of all these blokes in raincoats who'd come for a look at the strippers. Sometimes the stage manager used to laugh at us, out of pity I think, but that was about it. At least the Court used to let us finish up the customers' dimmers."

But the meeting with Good also led Peacock into the music world, and within another year he was writing hit-parade numbers for Adam Faith and Jess Conrad and a highly profitable song called "Mrs Brown, You've Got a Lovely Daughter" which Herman's Hermits stayed at the top of the American charts for several weeks. At a party one night Peacock happened to meet the director Michael Elliott, now of the Manchester Royal Exchange, where most of his best and recent work has been done; Elliott said it must be wonderful to have made all that money so young out of the records, and Peacock said yes, except that he really wanted to be an actor, and that was how the next morning he found himself at the Old Vic playing 14 non-speaking roles in the Lee McKern *Pearl* Gyn.

"I spent four hours chasing up and down the back stairs at the Vic either dressing up like a lemon curd tart to play a Troll or else trying to remember whether Third Peasant or Fourth Madman came next. In six plays at the Vic that last pre-National season, I finally achieved one line."

From there he went on to a solid fifteen years' slogging around the Royal Exchange, a brief stint at the RSC ("All those lads who have been there eleven years, I couldn't believe it; you have to jump about a bit in this business") before finally getting back to Michael Elliott when the Manchester company was formed. Along the way he also kept writing, most notably a stage play called *Case of Stuart Pury* and a film called *He Who Rides a Tiger*.

"I also wrote two other film scripts that never got made, and that used to depress me a lot until I met a very distinguished Hollywood screenwriter on a plane who said that was the best betting average he'd ever come across in a writer, one film made for three written. The average is apparently one in twelve, but I've stopped writing films now. And going to them. It's all rubbish."



Peacock with Penelope Keith boldly cast in "Hobson's Choice"

Instead Peacock concentrates largely on shows at the Manchester Exchange and television (most recently a superb *Quill* in *The Old Curiosity Shop* and one of the few characters actually to make himself understood in *The Borgias*). He also wrote the book, music and lyrics for a couple of highly successful Manchester musicals, one of which (*Erb*) died a terrible death in London while the other (*Leaping Ginger*) has not yet made it south. Undeterred, he is now hard at work between *Hobson* performances on a third — he and the composer Alan Price are doing a musical of the Andy Capp strip cartoon which opens at the Royal Exchange early this summer if they can find an Andy.

"What we really need is a young Max Wall, and there are precious

few of those around. I can tell you; but I love working on musicals for Manchester. They break through that posh preserve of the Cheshire theatregoing belt and appeal to a quite different city audience; most people, you know, would as soon plan a visit to China as to a theatre. But when they get there, the theatre I mean, and find they can get bars and buns and a song or two, then there's a good chance they'll come back."

"I like the idea of a regular, loyal audience and hope that maybe we'll find one at the Haymarket; when I was at the RSC in *Henry IV*, and people used to come backstage to say they'd seen the play eighteen times, I thought they meant Burton's, Neville's, Howard's and so on, but what they meant was they'd seen our pro-

duction eighteen times. It was amazing, but if you can find those sorts of groups then anything is possible."

Now at the start of his fifties, and well into a second marriage which means that he has sons of 20 (Daniel, already in the Royal Exchange company) and two months, Peacock is aware that he is coming into a good time. "Occasionally I've been offered my own television situation-comedy series but I've been careful to avoid those because they make you into a one-character actor and then they're very hard to break out of; the range I've had lately of work, from *Talbot* and *Jack Cade* in the new BBC *Henry VI* cycle to *ITV's Born and Bred*, has meant that I can keep jumping about, and that's what matters most."

Concerts

Monochrome effect

LSO/Marriner

Festival Hall

Britten's *Men of Goodwill* dates from 1947, when he composed it for a BBC radio programme, yet Monday's performance by the London Symphony Orchestra under Neville Marriner was the first to be given in a concert hall, and indeed the first since that broadcast. It takes the form of variations on "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen", and the score's invention is so consistent that there is danger of it being taken for granted.

Yet, despite the impressive variety of figuration and the diversity of Britten's orchestral writing, the effect is monochrome, in emotional as much as in musical terms. Having admired the composer's skill, there was nothing left to think about. The performance was clear and efficient, with good work from all departments of a large ensemble.

In disappointing contrast, the opening *tutti* of Chopin's Concerto No 2 was thoughtless, but such playing was, as it were, rebuked by the authority of Beethoven's *Symphony No 5*. However, subtle shadings were soon apparent in her phrases, as was a rubato which sought out their true meaning. Much of the piano figuration in the

development section can sound like technical exercises; none of it did here.

In thematic statements, not only did the melodies sing, as Chopin's usually do, but so also, the notes melting into one another, did the rapid ornamentation. This applied especially to the slow movement, of course, and here Miss Davidovich's playing conveyed a rare vernal freshness. It was as if each note was discovered in the actual moment of its performance. The mirror image of this was the naturally darkened of the central dramatic outburst, performed, by the soloist at least, with authentic intensity.

Though it was apt that Chopin's finale should sound spontaneous, this was paid for with a lessening of finesse. Miss Davidovich's playing was still masterful in its demarcation, yet the result was here less excited.

The LSO, and Mr Marriner, gave better accounts of themselves in the *Symphonie Fantastique*. In particular, a balance was held between broad sweep of Berlioz's five canvases and due attention to picturesque detail. Picturesque is perhaps not quite the word for the incidents suggested by the first two movements, but "Un Bal" and "Scene aux Champs" were uncommonly evocative.

Max Harrison

RPO/Temirkanov

Festival Hall

The degree of passionate commitment was unusually high at the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra's concert on Sunday night, as much from the orchestra themselves as from their principal guest conductor, Yuri Temirkanov, and the violinist Shlomo Mintz. The soloist chose the Dvorak concerto, which made a welcome alternative to others more familiar in the romantic repertoire, and on this occasion it sounded no less a masterpiece than any of those.

Bracing himself on the platform, legs apart as if on a ship's deck, the violinist launched himself fervently into the sturdy, often folk-like character of the concerto, with its leaping lines and eloquence of feeling, a character distilled from the slavic dances and rhapsodies which were then dominating the composer's musical thinking. His insistence on linking the opening movement to the following Adagio was never more convincingly justified than by the richness of tone and technique with which the

soloist articulated both movements as well as the spirited finale.

The conductor has shown his affinity with Rachmaninov on previous occasions, and the forbidding number of notes that constitute the second symphony were marshalled at the service of the musical intentions, even if, to others less committed than Mr Temirkanov, the work as a whole constantly seems to promise more than it redeems. He directed its course as if concerned to escape those associations by which each movement sounds as if it might be followed by a crash falling on a scene.

The temptation to the conductor in such music to express what he believes an audience should be feeling, not avoided by famous names of past and present, was here subordinated to the persuasive splendour of the orchestral playing, which made the most of the music with confident spirit and emphatic character. The detail of instrumental colour was also to be enjoyed in a tantalizingly brief excerpt from Rimsky-Korsakov's opera *The Invisible City of Kitezh*.

Noel Goodwin

Television

Charm of a good soap opera

There were plenty of problems in *The Silly Season* (Play for Today, BBC1), Stephen Mulrine's sad comedy from Glasgow, which seemed to have been in the can long enough to include references to Sir Keith Joseph in an unfamiliar post and to present as its plausible central idea the spectacle of students doing holiday work at a bottling plant.

There were Isabel's problems, for a start. Isabel (Elaine Collins) wore pink pantomime pantyhose and a tiny black skirt that might have been made out of toffee paper; she was neglected by her father and made pregnant by Jimmy for whom she did not care. If you thought Isabel a coarse slut (and she was) she was gentleness itself compared to feckless sister Eileen (Janette Foggo), a young Masrani whose soft lips twisted and green eyes blazed with fierce

joy as one moral imperative after another consumed her. Completing the trio of witches waiting for one return of their father, like husband Malcolm (Derek Anderson) was a sour and winging tritonne — his wife Ellen (Mary Riggans).

Malcolm had other problems, too: he had lost office in a union for refusing to endorse a strike, and now he was hopelessly in love with Lesley (Frances Low), the art student with the delicious nose and ginger curls at the bottling plant. Lesley's problems were modest: an enlightened and civilized upbringing, a cohabitation with Alastair (Iain Louchlan), an engaging painter and hopelessly childlike revolutionary whose curls were nearly as pretty as hers, but blond.

We are free agents, he told her generously during a rare row, to which she replied "But it's my flat" and chuckled him out. He returned next day, of course, and they snuggled up at the

and like a couple of kids, leaving Malcolm to face the bleak wrath of Ellen, and Isabel to await the birth of a child, like Edwardian mill-girls in Yorkshire novels, in Manchester.

It looks terrible on paper, I know, but I have to say I enjoyed it. The permutations of the opening programme disclaimers of any resemblance between his cast of villainous cops and any past or present officers of the Metropolitan Police, he might have done better to call it *Operation Hot Potato*.

The author's own view of the subject is crisply expressed in the opening spectacle of an evidently incorruptible Assistant Commissioner explaining the terms of their inquiry to the visiting Wiltshire constabulary, before retiring to his Essex residence to receive a £3,000 robbery kickback from a cold-eyed underling.

The underling is one Detective Chief Inspector

Operation Bad Apple

Royal Court

G. F. Newman has found a snappy title to link this play with the *Operation Countryman* inquiry, but in view of the careful programme disclaimers of any resemblance between his cast of villainous cops and any past or present officers of the Metropolitan Police, he might have done better to call it *Operation Hot Potato*.

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The underling is one Detective Chief Inspector

Theatre

Fair game, and not so fair

Sneed, a rising young officer, loaded with commendations, and later to make his mark as the Wiltshire team's long-awaited supergrass. Until Sneed falls into their clutches, they haul in nothing but a few small fry while the big fish swim round watching them waste their time.

When Sneed begins talking and disclosing his jealousy preserved records, it appears that there will shortly be no CID left; at which point, the Home Office allows the Met to take over the inquiry and suppress the evidence.

The piece ends with Sneed repeating the opening routine and solemnly informing his listeners that there may be one or two bad apples in the barrel and it is their sacred duty to root them out. Whatever the play's documentary basis, its main purpose is to supply a good night out for spectators who enjoy watching the police getting it in the neck. As I do not care for blood sports I

found it an uncomfortable experience. The police are fair game for critical documentary treatment or wild farce, like Orson's *Lost*. But a piece like this that hovers on the edge of credibility, suggesting that harassment of blacks is a deliberate policy to provoke a call for law and order, that Serious Crime Squads take as much in Securcor raids that the robbers have hardly two pennies to rub together, while at the same time protesting that it is all fiction with no reference to any policeman you might actually meet, strikes me as something less than courageous.

The black and white terms of the inquiry also compel Mr Newman to show excessive kindness to the rural constabulary. Are there no bent coppers out there too, you wonder, as their outraged eyebrows shoot up at the evil metropolitan practices, and their soft country voices take on the fanatical accent of the witch hunt. I had sympathy with the exasperated Met suspect who told them to get back to Ambridge.

Coming from the author of the *Barrow* trilogy and the *Law and Order* series, the dialogue has the ring of total authenticity, combining formal police procedure with criminal shorthand and brutal wit: finding corruption in the treatment they reserve for others; some reacting with ferocious incomprehension when finding themselves on the receiving end; others, like Patrick Malahide, nerve-hardened Sneed, facing his opposite numbers as if they were chess opponents. "It's like sitting here listening to myself," he says contemptuously, observing his adversary's provincial technique.

Max Stafford-Clarke's production conjures up a succession of locations with the aid of a few chairs and a golf ball; the reality of the characters diminishes as they ascend the social scale, but Roger Booth and Toby Saloman give the Met two adversaries to be reckoned with.

Irving Wardle



Toby Saloman (standing), Patrick Malahide: adversaries to be reckoned with

Junko Makayama

Queen Elizabeth Hall

There is a certain pleasure to be had in listening to a young pianist whose interpretations of the standard repertoire are as well thought through as the programme, and whose technique is fluent and confident enough to enable the music to speak directly, unfiltered through a mesh of nervous and physical tensions.

For the first 15 minutes or so of her recital Miss Makayama provided just this sort of pleasure. Her Schubert *G flat Impromptu* and the opening of the *B flat Sonata*, D 960, moved with refreshingly unencumbered strength, the melodic and harmonic shaping of their long lines never over-urged. But the pleasure quickly palls when, within the long span of this opening movement, little slights are taken in the appearance, development or variation of each new melodic idea, one hurrying by after the other, with no pause for breath, reflection or recall, and with little

dynamic variation either side of a mezzo-forte.

If in the Schubert display of Miss Makayama's technical accomplishments seemed to dispense with the need to express and infect her audience with any real affection for the music, her Chopin *Impromptu* and *Sonata* revealed those skills in even starker isolation. Particularly in the *B minor Sonata* that temptation to undernourish each small unfurling figure, each progressive harmonic inflexion, the quicker to achieve a passage of more obvious pianistic virtuosity, was more serious evidence of a failure, to penetrate and realize the musical structure and emotional evolution of the work as a whole.

With only an arbitrary and limping rubato propelling the first movement's sostenuto and the Largo's rocking cantabile, by the Presto finale Miss Makayama was not alone in feeling eager to reach the end of a work whose disturbingly unturned performance could only try the patience and dull the sensibility.

Hilary Finch

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ALEC McCOWEN
in
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adapted for stage by
CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON
from the novel by
GEORGE STEINER
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Jazz

Woody Shaw
Ronnie Scott's

Woody Shaw served his apprenticeship as a young trumpeter with such leaders as Art Blakey, Eric Dolphy, Jackie McLean and McCoy Tyner, but his brief tenure with Horace Silver's group in the middle 1960s seems to have planted the hardest seeds in his own conception. Shaw's quintet, which began as a two-week residency on Frie Street on Monday, favours several Silverish shades: strong, simple structures usually based on coiled piano figures, bright textures which stop just short of harshness, and Latin-inflected rhythms.

Like another — a standard criticism of post-bop soloists, in this case fully justified. After listening recently to trumpeters as stylistically diverse as Ruby Braff and Wynton Marsalis, it is hard to get worked up over Shaw's predictable recourse to double-time runs in practically every chorus.

He shares the front line with a trombonist, Steve Turre, whose approaches range from the diffident to the blaring and who makes an agile partner in the head arrangements of "Star Eyes" and Shaw's own rapid "Ginseng People". The piano work of Mulgrew Miller provided adequate support but undistinguished solos, and Tony Reis seemed a more promising young drummer, delivering a lithe beat in the manner of a more emphatic Billy Higgins and making something musically interesting of his four-bar breaks.

The group's star is unquestionably its bassist, Stafford James, an unsung performer who combines walking lines of quiet but massive swing with a flexibility which stops short of gymnastics. His tone throughout the registers is marvellously consistent; he has a way, too, of starting a chorus with a few halved-time bars before slipping into a regular 4/4, providing an illusion of acceleration which gives the soloist a flying start.

Richard Williams

For the Médécine family, running Nice is a way of life: the present mayor, Jacques, is angrily denying charges of corruption in his city...

Dirty tricks, says le patron, and takes the gloves off

by Jonathan Fenby

Nice is wine and circus time in this month. The annual carnival is in full swing, with weekly "battles" between floral floats and nighty dances under huge striped canopies in the central Place Masséna. Everybody seems to be having a good time. Sometimes police join in the dancing, trailing silver heart-shaped balloons as they sway across the cobbles.

This Mediterranean gaiety is an essential part of the image that Nice has built up since it began to develop as a tourist centre at the end of the last century. But behind the image there is the reality of bitter political infighting, economic pressure, shut-down casinos, tension with the central government in Paris, and, now, *l'affaire Graham Greene*.

The novelist's allegations of corruption by the city's criminals of police officers, magistrates and lawyers, first made in a letter to *The Times*, on January 25, came at a tricky time for the well-entrenched establishment which has run the city for decades. Tourism is declining. Both the city's big casinos are closed because of tax debts. Luxury hotels along the Promenade des Anglais report falling business.

Though best known for tourism, Nice is also an important industrial centre, with 350,000 inhabitants, and has been banking on becoming France's California through a combination of holiday appeal and high technology companies. But the soggy state of the French economy has slowed things down. The city's economically important construction industry is in a

rocky state and the property market has plunged since the socialist electoral triumph last summer.

Nice, like many other previous conservative strongholds was not immune from the left-wing tide. Two of the city's three members of the National Assembly are now socialists, and the right-wing city council have no doubt that Nice's affairs come under particular, and critical, scrutiny from the national administration in Paris.

After a long period of absence from the city council, left-wingers won a third of the seats in 1978 and are doing everything they can to turn that into a majority at next year's municipal elections. For them, Graham Greene's allegations came as a godsend. The socialist weekly, *Nouvel Hebdo de Nice*, put the writer on its cover and devoted four pages to the affair as an example of the way the city needs a radical change of direction. That in turn, was proof enough for members of the ruling group in Nice that the whole thing had been got up by their political enemies with one particular target in mind: the mayor who has run Nice for 15 years.

"The relationship between Nice and its mayor is one of love and mistress", the editor of the local newspaper commented last week. "Jacques Médécine is, quite simply, *le patron*".

That is not something the 53-year-old M. Médécine would quarrel with. Graham Greene's allegations do not concern him personally, he insists, and, indeed, Greene has made a point of never naming him. But M. Médécine still feels he has to climb into

the ring to fight for the good name of his city.

What he is dealing with, he is convinced, is a dirty tricks campaign by his opponents. Nice, he says, has been unfairly singled out for attention. There is certainly crime in the city, but what about the recent killing of a Corsican boss of gambling clubs in Paris, and what about gang killings in Marseilles?

"If somebody dies crashing a car into a tree here, the papers write 'he was killed in a car crash in a city where M. Médécine is mayor'", he told me. "It's always 'in the city of Jacques Médécine'... In Marseilles a judge was killed recently. Nobody said that was the

fault of the mayor, who happens to be M. Gaston Defferre, the Minister of the Interior."

But Nice's recent history is certainly studied to titillate the suspicious-minded: the escape through a court window of the mastermind of a huge bank robbery who had earlier accompanied M. Médécine as a photographer in a group trip to Japan; the drug trafficker who remained unscathed for years before finally being arrested; gang killings that left 30 dead in the 1970s; and, above all, the casino war on the Promenade des Anglais.

M. Médécine insists that he was in no way involved in the fight between the venerable Palais de la Méditerranée casino and its ultra-modern rival, the Ruhl. The struggle was, he told me, "only a commercial war, like one between two supermarkets that are too close to one another".

There can have been few supermarket fights, however, that have led to the daughter of the owner of one disappearing mysteriously after switching her vital vote at a board meeting, as happened to the daughter of the woman who ran the Palais de la Méditerranée. Nor do many supermarket bosses flee to Switzerland to escape charges of fiscal irregularities, as did the Ruhl's boss, Jean Dominique Fraton, who still, however, keeps in regular touch with his boyhood soccer team mate, the Mayor.

Nice's current notoriety, M. Médécine told me, had a simple cause: "The left hates me because I am one of the

most combative right-wing politicians in the country. They hate my guts and I hate their guts. They want to destroy me as an example of what happens when you stand up to them. They cannot compete with my administration here so they have decided to fight by tricky ways, and the tricky way is to try to give me the image of dishonesty."

Those so-called socialists tell the people in Nice that Jacques Médécine has not done a thing for the poor and that they will do better. But they know I have done a lot for the poor, for all people who need help.

M. Médécine is very much a man of the Midi. He has written a good-selling book on the local cuisine and, engagingly, lists collecting model trains as one of his hobbies, together with rose growing, swimming and fishing. His second wife, an American heiress from the Max Factor cosmetics family many years his junior, appears beside him on municipal posters wishing the citizens of Nice a happy new year.

For anybody bearing any other name to be mayor of Nice would be as unthinkable as communist participation in the French government would have been a few years ago. Apart from a two-year break in the 1940s, Jacques Médécine's father was mayor from 1926 until 1965; Jacques took over the following year after working as a journalist.

For M. Médécine's opponents, the long family tenure of power reflects Nice's democratic backwardness and accounts for the recurrent suspicions

about the way the city is run. "The kind of government that exists in Nice is the classic government of the south, like British rotten boroughs of the past", says M. Max Gallo, one of the socialist deputies elected last June and author of a novel of crime and corruption clearly based on the city.

"The permanence of the same family, not to speak of the same class, does not encourage clear, transparent public life and gives rise to suspicions and gossip, either with a real basis or as the product of the imagination."

Nice, M. Gallo notes, has been French only since 1860. It was then a small Mediterranean town, run by a closed circle of men, and its growth into France's fifth biggest city this century has not shaken its nineteenth century municipal structure.

However much local enthusiasts may talk of an injection of high technology industries, says M. Gallo, Nice has still not become integrated with the rest of the country. He has his own clear ideas about changing that situation if he manages to unseat M. Médécine in next year's mayoral election.

Whatever happens, the economic and political pressures of the next few years are bound to put the old system that has run Nice for so long under pressure. The carnival will go on, but Graham Greene's private war may play its little part in deciding whether it is the familiar Médécine tune or to a more left-wing air.

Washington President Reagan's 71st birthday last Saturday was given scant attention by the press, here a reflection perhaps of its present and even nagging disenchantment with him. But the President made up for its lack of notice by choosing his birthday to release his 1983 budget proposals, which have been greeted by many Republicans across the country with a low whistle of incredulity and even a shudder.

The budget message was sent officially to Congress at noon on Monday. The President having earlier met the congressional leadership. He then gave a luncheon for the "All-Star" ice hockey players and then took off for the Midwest for the first time in a year in which the mid-term elections will be crucial.

The juxtaposition of a budget message which will be bitterly contested in Washington with his first electioneering of 1982 tells us a lot about what we may expect of how much time he spends at his desk or elsewhere absorbed in public concerns is now a more closely guarded secret than before. What is increasingly clear is that it is less a matter of how much time he is willing to spend at his desk — this is probably more than at the beginning — than of the stages in decision-making at which the White House structure requires or even permits his intervention.

Every description of the process given by the triumvirate of his top advisers is woolly. Even when the President personally makes a serious error (as in supporting tax-exempt status for rapidly seceding schools), when he personally resists the weight of advice (as in pursuing his policy of big tax cuts), both the moment of the presidential decision and the manner in which it was reached are hard to discover.

The country simply does not know what he does, which has so far clearly been to its advantage. But if one adds up the decisions in which he is known to have had a hand at a stage that matters, the impression is of a President whose interventions are intermittent and arbitrary, and are made on a range of ill-assorted issues of varying seriousness and triviality.

Above all, there is no more evidence now than at the beginning that he gives any sustained attention to the graver and more far-reaching questions of foreign policy. This situation can only deteriorate because of the character of his budget message. For yet another year, his Congress and the country's attention will be concentrated on domestic policy and the protracted battles that it will cause.

A president who has made it inevitable that he must lead the fight for the budget, and lead his party in the elections which will be focused on it, is not a president who will have much time in any day to consider the Nato alliance.

One of his triumvirate, James A. Baker III, said the other day: "We're not unhappy with the way the President's time has been scheduled. One of the things we do in our morning meetings is talk about how the President's time is being allocated and spent in a macro sense."

If ever I find myself allocating my time in a macro sense I will decide reluctantly but firmly that it is time to go.

advisers decided he should give more news conferences. This has called for still more regular and more intensive briefing by his staff.

It has been said that presidential news conferences have become exercises in damage control as the press grows more critical. But there can never have been a White House staff — there certainly has not been in the four previous presidencies I have observed — which is so fearful of what their President will say. This determines much of the character of his days.

More than any other previous administration, Mr. Reagan's is committed to marketing techniques, from the elaborate use of survey research by a team of pollsters to the final marketing of the finished product by a team of media consultants. A White House day is a more and more dominated by a continuous process of educating the President for the public performances arranged by his staff.

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Henry Fairlie

Reagan to the rescue of Fort Budget

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Even before the new budget proposals were released, with his popularity slipping in the polls, his

guards the Alaska oil pipeline, the nuclear test site outside Las Vegas, and the Cape Canaveral space centre from which the shuttle is launched.

Goodbye sailor

The choice of Colin Smith of Edinburgh as seafarer judged to have made the best use of his leisure time in 1981 casts new light on the perils facing seamen. He spent most of the year ashore and looking for work. He wrote more than 130 companies, many of them twice. When he did finally get a job with a foreign vessel the unhygienic conditions on board quickly made him ill, and he landed in a Beirut hospital for seven weeks. He is now unemployed again.

Winning waltz

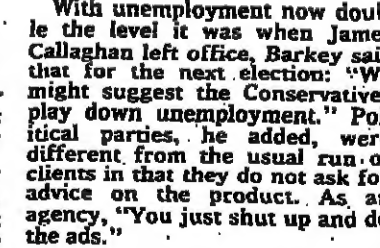
It is not, surprisingly, unknown for newspaper writers to win literary prizes, but it must almost be unheard-of for a newspaper executive. Yet tomorrow George Clare, head of the Springer newspapers' London operations, will collect the W. H. Smith award for *Last Waltz in Vienna*, a history of his Austrian Jewish family. Clare says he is overwhelmed to be taking his place in a list of winners that includes Anthony Powell, Laurie Lee, Patrick White and John Fowles. "I cannot get over it that an English prize should go to someone born and raised in Europe", he said yesterday.



Rest easy

The safety of London now rests in the hands of the Wackenhut Corporation. The firm, little known in Britain, has been put in charge of security at the new Thames barrage.

George Wackenhut, the head of the company, flew from the United States to inspect the installation yesterday. He confirmed gravely that "considerable damage could be wrought" if anything happened to the barrage, and that the construction was regarded as "a serious safety risk". It may help Londoners sleep more soundly in their beds to know that Wackenhut already



Weighty reading

Many things are sold by weight—it is illegal to sell brussels sprouts any other way—so why not books? Michael Reynolds, deputy chairman of the Apple and Pear Marketing Board and founder of the Susan Reynolds Books chain, today starts selling books at 30p a pound at his Regent Street shop. Reynolds believes that people are drawn to heavy, low-priced books irrespective of content. "One of our fastest-moving books was a big one called *Detailed Diagrams of the Brains of a Baboon* at 50p. People were snapping it up as a coffee table conversation piece because it looked impressive—and cost so little".

What ails gladioli from Malta? Something, most, for all of the world's gladioli, they are banned from Britain. The returning European traveller may bring unrestricted numbers of flower seeds, but only five plants or parts of plants, and no chrysanthemums, fruit trees, or potatoes. One may bring in only a small bunch of cut flowers, but there is a complete ban on forest trees

Artist with a magic pencil

encouraging without being at all lenient", Reid recalled. In the studio Reid would see the jugs and vases which he loved to draw and paint. "Friends tended to bring him things when they found something particularly delicious. They stood around and worked their way into his visual memory. And when he picked up a pencil, something magical happened, as you know."

The poet Geoffrey Grigson, who knew Nicholson most of his life, recalled taking him to Bath four years ago. After being enormously impressed by the Royal Crescent, Nicholson drifted into an antique shop, emerging with a large glass goblet. When they returned chez Grigson, he asked whether he could take over the kitchen, and spent the rest of the day closeted there drawing the goblet.

"He was an extraordinarily gay character", Grigson said fondly, "and a monstrous maker of puns."

While married to his third wife, Dr Felicitas Vogler, a German journalist and photographer, Nicholson

lived from 1958 to 1972 on the Swiss side of the Italian border, near Ascona, in a modern house overlooking Lake Garda. Friends like Grigson and Reid who visited him agree that he felt unduly isolated and cut off from his friends. When he returned to England, he stayed for a time in part of an old mill near Cambridge belonging to the architect Leslie Martin, his friend from the 1930s when art and design marched hand in hand.

"The great point about his work was its extreme subtlety, which was part of his character", Sir Leslie (as he became) recalled yesterday. "He never wanted to do anything else but paint". Nicholson liked Martin's architectural work, not least when it reminded him of something he himself had done; and Martin felt reinforced by the parallel element in the work of an artist he so greatly admired. Together, and with Naum Gabo, they edited *Circle*, a book celebrating the "constructive" aspects, as they saw them, of architecture, painting and sculpture.

Despite his gaiety, his puns, his love of tennis, ping-pong (at both of which he excelled) and cricket, of cats, picnics and Stevie Smith's poems, he was not an easy man.

Few artists are heroes to their dealers (and vice versa), but Leslie Waddington, tained an affectionate admiration for Nicholson's sometimes maddening perfectionism. "Ben was totally demanding. His concept of catalogues set a standard for other dealers and influenced other catalogues", he said.

It was a pity — though understandable, given his dedication to his work and his privacy — that Nicholson should virtually never have given interviews, thus denying posterity his views and his wit. One of the few who broke the barriers was his third wife: the story was that she went to interview him at his St Ives home and never emerged. For several of his six children he became a remote figure. To the end it was his work which came first.

Roger Berthoud



Humphrey Spender's study of Ben Nicholson in the National Portrait Gallery

Fox recalled with an illustrious meet

Chatham House is gathering a wealth of international experience to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the British foreign secretaryship next month. Michael Howard, Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford, and Lord Carrington will be among speakers in a series of lectures organized by the Royal Institute of International Affairs with the Foreign Office. The celebrations commemorate the appointment of Charles James Fox as Foreign Secretary on March 27, 1782. Before that, responsibility for Britain's foreign policy was divided between two secretaries of state. One looked after southern Europe and the colonies, the other the north.

The lectures, at Chatham House on Thursdays in March, will be chaired by Lord Harlech, James Callaghan, Lord Greenhill and Lord Home. Invitations have gone to all former foreign secretaries, including Harold Macmillan, Lord Butler, Lord (Michael) Stewart and David Owen.

Vodka at six

Egon Ronay, in his 1982 *Bulmer Pub Guide*, launched yesterday, properly celebrates the rise of the family pub. But he does not mention the little-known fact that, despite our allegedly tight

licensing laws, it is perfectly legal to buy your six-year-old a vodka so long as the child is in the pub garden.

The age limit for consumption of alcohol on licensed premises outside the bar is only five.

Wrong-footed

John Timpon of Radio 4's early morning *Today* programme is a very good presenter, but I would not fancy waltzing with him.

Commenting on the rail strikes yesterday, he remarked that they had changed their tempo from quickstep "on, on, off, off, on" to waltz "on, off, on, off".

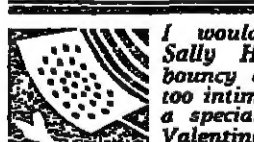
He then went further, and said they might next be waltzing "on, on, on, off, off, off". As we graduates of Arthur Murray realize a real railway waltz would go "on, off, off, on, off, off", but I hope none of this gives the railmen any more silly ideas.

Robert Maxwell's British Printing Corporation (BPC) changes its name from March 1 to British Printing and Communication Corporation (BPCC) — and not as some people thought to Maxwell House.

Tower power

The Pilgrims, who promote Anglo-American understanding, have Senator John Tower, chairman of the United States Senate's Armed Services Committee, coming to lunch at the Savoy on February 23. Tower, a tough Republican who won Lyndon Johnson's seat two decades ago, is a powerful figure, in some

THE TIMES DIARY



fighting sexism — with both fists and any other weapons that come conveniently to hand — is publishing a book called *Squashed Flies*.

"It is described as a collection of 'witty, crushing and devastating replies to male abuse.' Sample: 'Why don't you pick on someone your own sex?' or (in a cinema,

senses outranking the well-publicized Secretary of State, Alexander Haig. On the other hand Haig was a general. Tower, the only enlisted reservist in Congress, is still officially a chief petty officer."

While Times Newspapers needs 600 employees to take off for the papers' future to be assured, the followers of the Maharishi Mahesh Yoga believe that if just another 500 inhabitants of Skelmersdale start levitating, the whole country will be rid of crime, strikes and every other nastiness. They claim statistical evidence showing that if only the square root of 1 per cent of the United Kingdom's population (about 750 people) practise "the group dynamics of conscious-

ness" the nation's troubles are over.

Skelmersdale, a new town near Liverpool, already has a group of 250 practising levitators, more than anywhere else in the country. Now the Maharishi's followers are looking for a building near the Houses of Parliament from which they hope to beam their health-giving and age-reversing waves of consciousness to our legislators.

Leonard Barkey, deputy managing director of Saatchi and Saatchi, the advertising agency which so far at least retains its Conservative Party account, admits to embarrassment at the dole-queue posters his firm produced for the last general election.

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Don't play it again

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Considering been the science the years. intervene of process of have been reasonable adulterous official insemination (AID) have fused remarkable conceiving dishes has significantly thousand enabled through fertilization as a hundred

Medical area is a Before long it in manipulate conception for more questions practices, including the British Medical Council central meeting subject today a complete this field into time to take

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Nevertheless implications fully consi doctors or h the BMA's tought he guidelines prepared by of Obst gynaecologi matter to the doctors' strong case government including a

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The policy il — as M suggested — make the weapons less more likely, abolish them programme of Reagan we, in that i protective c possible. The game is ex which are d will shortly dangerous to then to pote But the P wants to go proposal for "a new b indicates. His large the a

Art and ta From Mr Greo Sir it is argu the dire for world's accu Miss Frances will turn ou foundation w ment's respon vential contru the select administrative we education we cultural m One of the m to the effect the through Revenue, pre minor's far- nation's far- Miss Frances terms, for a satisfied by free are render discharge of ta been made trace for tax de The eyes of be on Mr



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

A MATTER OF ORIGINS

Considering that the idea has been the stuff of bawdy science fiction for many years, the first steps to intervene extraneously in the process of human fertilization have been received with reasonable calm. The adulterous overtones of artificial insemination by donor (AID) have not generally been fussed over, and the remarkable achievement of conceiving babies in glass dishes has been fussed over mainly for its sentimental significance. Several thousand couples have been enabled to have children through AID, and in vitro fertilization may help as many as a hundred this year.

Medical knowledge in this area is growing very fast. Before long doctors will have it in their power to manipulate the processes of conception in ways that raise far more troubling ethical questions than present practices. Some doctors, including the chairman of the British Medical Association's central ethical committee, which meets to discuss the subject today, have called for a complete halt to work in this field until society has had time to take stock.

Existing procedures, which have been used with animals for some years, do not carry medical risks of pose immediate ethical problems of an order that would warrant a ban. That would be a bitter blow to many couples who hope to benefit, and might lose their chance for ever if there was delay.

Nevertheless the general implications have not been fully considered either by doctors or by society at large. The BMA's committee will no doubt be helpful as will the guidelines now being prepared by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, but this is not a matter to be left wholly to the doctors. There is now a strong case for a widely-based government inquiry, including a variety of lay

voices as well as medical ones, into the whole question. Whether or not any line of research should be halted in the meantime is a matter that the inquiry itself should be invited to address itself, to, and make recommendations as necessary in an interim report.

In themselves, AID and in vitro fertilization are less unfamiliar in their implications than their scientific magic might suggest. The latter has as yet only been accomplished in Britain with the husband's sperm, but it could be done with donor sperm. A child conceived in this way, or by AID would technically be illegitimate, but in practice it is most unlikely that this would put it at any legal disadvantage. In animals, a fertilized ovum has already been implanted successfully in a different female, and the same technique may soon be applicable to human couples where a woman cannot herself produce ova capable of fertilization. In effect, this is a kind of pre-natal adoption, and it raises similar issues.

Adoption cannot take place without formal social reports and sanction by a court, but in AID it is left to the doctor's professional judgment to assess whether the aspirant parents are suitable. Parallel safeguards may not be necessary — adoption tends to be a far more complex matter psychologically. But adoptive children and AID children alike may in some cases feel a strong desire when they grow up to find out their real genetic origin, and to suffer greatly if they are prevented from doing so. Since 1975 the law has given the former the right to know, though it has not made it easy, and a minority take advantage of this. It seems right that AID children should be able to do the same.

This implies that the identity of donors should be recorded, though on a confidential basis. There is no

requirement for this at the moment. A record would also help to overcome fears of accidental incest, similar to those which sometimes exist with adoptions. The risk of serious genetic ill-effects from such an event would in practice be remote, but precautions would nevertheless make reassurance available both to the individual and the public. Whether statutory requirements are necessary, or a code of practice for doctors, the inquiry may consider.

Further ahead, the ethical problems become stranger and graver. Freezing of genetic material and cloning (or division of fertilized eggs into an unlimited number of genetically identical individuals) are already part of existing procedures, but with further development they would make highly bizarre eugenic tinkering feasible. It is not desirable to ban useful practices outright merely because they could be used in offensive or dangerous ways, but there may be a case for regulation.

A fertilized egg is potentially a person. It ought not to be regarded as a dispensable material on the same basis as sperm or an egg that has not been fertilized. There is no clear consensus in society about the rights that such an entity possesses, or at what stage it acquires them, as may be seen from disagreements about abortion. Embryos fertilized in the laboratory would be of enormous value as material for scientific research. In the case of abortion, it is widely accepted that the interests of a mother can override her foetus's claim to life. Research of benefit not to one individual but to the whole community might arguably be said to have at least an equal claim. But the idea is deeply repugnant to many. It is time for a calm and thorough debate over which of the many strange possibilities now opening up are acceptable, which need further controls, and which are unacceptable.

CHEMICAL ARSENALS

Chemical warfare is rightly held in abhorrence. President Reagan's request to Congress for funds to reactivate a chemical weapons programme will deepen misgivings where they are already felt in Western Europe about the American rearmament drive. Chemical weapons have not been manufactured in the United States since 1969, nor are they likely to be in the immediate future. On the other hand, a nerve gas plant is already under construction in Arkansas, and what is "developed" could without much difficulty be "produced" and subsequently deployed. Since — as with tactical nuclear weapons — the envisaged battleground is Western Europe, any such suggestion could lead to a further rise in European neutralist sentiment, together with the anti-Americanism on which it feeds.

The policy can be justified if — as Mr Reagan has suggested — it is intended to make the use of chemical weapons less rather than more likely, and if possible to abolish them altogether. The programme outlined by President Reagan is partly defensive, in that it calls for better protective clothing against possible Warsaw Pact attacks. The Reagan programme is also intended to replace existing stockpiles, which are deteriorating and will shortly become more dangerous to their possessors than to potential aggressors. But the President clearly wants to go further, as his proposal for the development of a new binary nerve gas indicates. His intention is to enlarge the American chemi-

cal warfare capability to the point where it forces the Russians to negotiate reductions in their own substantial chemical arsenals.

There are no reliable estimates of the Soviet capability, and American charges that the Russians have used poisonous gases either directly (in Afghanistan) or through surrogates (in South East Asia) have yet to be proved. But the Soviet Union has extensive stockpiles of chemical weapons, and Soviet troops are systematically trained in their use. Nerve gas is a peculiarly vile weapon, resulting in death through paralysis, and its effects could scarcely be confined to the battlefield. Much the same might be said of nuclear weapons, tactical or otherwise, and death from nuclear blast and radiation and death from nerve gas poisoning are horrific in about equal measure. But whereas a balance of sorts exists in the nuclear field, there is no deterrent at present to the Soviet use of chemical weapons beyond the use of nuclear weapons themselves, which in the Nato doctrine of "flexible response" is conceived of as a last resort.

To try and match the Russians gas for gas would be to risk a new and deadly arms race, and would in any case presuppose detailed knowledge of the Soviet capability. But the Russians must be made aware that the West has not only the ability to protect itself against gas but also the capacity to develop and deploy chemical weapons of its own. Otherwise the incentive is lacking for the Soviet Union to negotiate seriously

with a view to banning chemical weapons.

To be effective, this approach must be combined with a vigorous diplomatic effort to negotiate a comprehensive ban. The international treaties on both chemical and biological weapons are unsatisfactory. The 1925 Geneva protocol on chemical warfare bans the first use of chemical weapons, but not their manufacture or stockpiling. The 1972 convention on biological warfare (ratified in 1975), by contrast, bans the manufacture of biological weapons and toxins, but not — absurdly — their use. These anomalies must be properly considered within the frame work of the current disarmament talks at Geneva, together with ways in which infringements of a comprehensive ban might be detected.

Verification is difficult, not least since active chemical agents can be manufactured and stored separately, and only brought together when required. But it is not impossible to devise verification procedures, provided the parties to the treaty agree to on-site inspection, something the Russians have refused to do. They have also refused to assist United Nations investigations in to allegations of chemical warfare in Afghanistan and South East Asia. The Americans also have reason to suspect the Soviet Union of a breach of the convention on biological weapons. If in these circumstances the Americans are alarmed by the prospect of Russian dominance in a particularly horrifying area of warfare, the Russians can have only themselves to blame.

University challenge

From Professor P. C. Bayley
Sir, The Vice-Chancellor of London University (February 2) wrote only of Britain's need of universities in terms of their contribution to industry, science, technology, management, law and medicine — the necessary sciences and arts. He signally omitted to mention Humane Letters and the Polite Arts to which his own distinguished academic career has been devoted. Whether this was calculated or not, the inference may be drawn — and ought to be drawn, and I as one who professes a non-scientific, non-technological subject would strongly urge it — that a beleaguered industrial nation really cannot and ought not to go on maintaining so marked a mandarin emphasis as Britain does.
Yours faithfully,
P. C. BAYLEY,
70 Winmar Place,
St Andrews,
Fife.

Art and tax debts

From Mr George Levy
Sir, It is greatly to be hoped that the dire forbodings in the art world accurately reported by Miss Frances Gibb (February 3) will turn out to be without foundation when the Government's response is announced to certain constructive proposals of the select committee urging administrative reforms to encourage retention in this country of our cultural heritage.
One of the most serious fears is to the effect that the Treasury, and through it the Inland Revenue, are resisting the recommendation (surely supported by the Minister for the Arts) that the terms fixing the amount of tax satisfied by the statutory tax-free surrender of works of art in discharge of tax liabilities should now be made more attractive to those faced with heavy capital transfer tax demands.
The eyes of the art world will be on Mr Nicholas Ridley,

Financial Secretary to the Treasury, when he is questioned by the select committee on February 24. Will he on this occasion forbear to play his department's automatic, unreasoning role of "abominable no-man"?
Miss Gibb pertinently drew attention to the existence of scale of funding now becoming available to foreign buyers which could induce British tax debtors to ignore facilities which, though they exist in legal theory, are nevertheless stifled in practice by administrative discouragement. But is not this a situation which is likely to meet with a (doubtless unconfessed) welcome from the Inland Revenue, with its evident vested interest in our heritage being dispersed overseas for taxable cash at the highest prices in the open market?
Yours faithfully,
GEORGE J. LEVY, Director,
H. Blairman and Sons,
119 Mount Street, W1.
February 4

Safeguards on insemination

From Mr P. A. F. Chalk and others
Sir, The letter from Dr Snowden and Professor Mitchell (February 4) brings into the open the concern which surrounds the establishment of foetal embryo banks and the freezing of human semen and ova for future use in human reproduction or research in embryo development, etc. It is important, however, to recognize those areas of established treatment which need to be safeguarded.

The collection, freezing, and use of donor semen is an important and established practice where the male partner is azoospermic. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists have given guidelines which have been valuable in ensuring that the highest ethical and professional standards are observed in conditions of complete confidentiality.

The *in vitro* fertilization technique pioneered by Steptoe and Edwards using corporal fertilization with a husband and wife has provided a means whereby married couples can achieve a pregnancy which is genetically theirs when the normal processes of fertilization and implantation are rendered impossible by the complete and irreversible occlusion of the fallopian tubes. It would be sad if a moratorium on the retrieval of ova should interfere with this valuable form of treatment.

The possibility of the use of donor semen and donor ova, and the subsequent implantation into the uterus of a patient with whom there is no genetic relationship, opens an entirely new field. To our knowledge this has not been done so far, but workers in the field of fertilization and implantation have stated their intention of doing so. It is to this matter and the storage of ova and semen for the same ends, or for research, that the most urgent attention should be focused. To delay could lead to a fait accompli with such questions as the rights of the foetus, the genetic parents, and the recipient woman left unanswered. The status of an ovum before and after fertilization must be resolved.

We, the National Health Service consultants, are not involved in the programme of experimental fertilization currently being undertaken at this hospital. Whilst we would welcome guidelines from the Royal College, we feel that the fundamental issues involved are so important that the medical profession should not attempt to handle them on their own. It is to be hoped that religious leaders, lawyers, politicians, and all those with a serious concern for ethical and moral welfare, will share in this responsibility and make their views known.

Yours faithfully,
P. A. F. CHALK,
VALERIE M. THOMPSON,
LUPA EPSZTEJN,
The Royal Free Hospital,
5, Hampstead, NW3.
February 9

Unions and the media

From Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham, West (Labour)
Sir, The Aslef dispute has highlighted yet again the bias in the press treatment of industrial relations. It took "blacklisting" action by Aslef members at Kings Cross to secure a right of reply to the Sun's front-page and uncorroborated and indiscriminate allegations of "fiddling and cheating" by railmen. Many deplored the blacklisting, but did any of them also demand that a right of reply be formally instituted so that it does not have to be enforced by such means in future?

It is not as though the problem is new. At the TUC's Day of Action on May 14, 1980, calculations show that Fleet Street's five tabloid dailies (the Express, Sun, Mirror, News of the World, and the Daily Mail) allocated 2,209 columns to it, and only 254 to stating what was to happen in a non-derogatory fashion. Not a single inch of 334 given to editorial consideration of the day was other than hostile. Phrasing like the "uneducated Lenin Murray and his bully boys" (who, by the way, elected the paper's editor, Derek Jameson?) was commonplace. Not a single feature appeared offering space to any of the leaders of the demonstration to explain why they had called it and what they were trying to achieve.

Such examples are legion at the time of every major industrial dispute. It is high time newspaper proprietors that freedom of the press does not mean a licence to print their own sectional propaganda, but rather equality of access to the media irrespective of wealth or class interest. The Press Council (which itself badly needs reforming by being given statutory powers) should use research systematically to monitor breaches of this principle by each newspaper, publishing the results at regular intervals.
If the principle were still not implemented voluntarily, a statutory right of reply should then be introduced by law. This would make equal space mandatorily available, with equal prominence to that of the original offending article and within three days thereafter, for any aggrieved party who could show to the satisfaction of the appropriate adjudicating body that they had been grossly and inaccurately misrepresented.
Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL MEACHER,
House of Commons,
February 7

Mixed fortunes

From Mrs S. M. Newton
Sir, The fortunes of "The Fortune Teller" (Letters, January 20, 23) should perhaps be compared with those of National Gallery 3831, catalogued in 1929 as "School of Meissner" and now in the reserve. It, too, was enthusiastically commended, and by a director of the Courtauld Institute. When, in the early 1920s it came up for sale, he and several distinguished colleagues in the art world persuaded the National Gallery that it should buy the painting, which it did. It hung in the appropriate gallery until, several years later, an Italian visitor pointed out that it included a portrait of the man who had taught him to paint.
Today the clothes in 3831 look as ludicrously inspired by the fashions of the early twentieth century as, I believe, given time, the clothes in "The Fortune Teller" will be seen to have been inspired by the fashions of the middle of that century. Those who are young enough should, perhaps, be prepared to wait.
Yours obediently,
STELLA MARY NEWTON,
3 Cumberland Gardens,
Lloyd Square, WC1.
February 2

Restrictive practices

From Mr Charles Whiffin
Sir, I find the reasoning of the RAC spokesman you quote (The Times, February 5) slightly hard to follow.
If they refuse to list an hotel in their guide because it does not admit smokers, since "many of our members are smokers" what then is the logic in listing hotels which do not admit children?
Is one to assume that there are not many members of the RAC who have children?
Yours faithfully,
CHARLES WHIFFIN,
10a, Elmcourt Road,
West Norwood, SE27.

The British view of enterprise

From Mr Ray Whitney, MP for Wycombe (Conservative)

Sir, It has been a widely held view, at least until recently, that one significant measure and cause of the difference between the attitudes of the American economy and the sluggishness of our own was to be found in the respective national attitudes to entrepreneurs. Most Americans seemed to take pride in their success and regard them as exemplars of what can be achieved, to the benefit of society by individuals fired with courage and vision. In Britain the dominant response was a mean and aggressively egalitarian hostility to anyone who dared to try to lift himself out of the dreary mud-flats of the corporatist state.

One very bright spot in the gloom of the Laker collapse has been the strength of the demonstration that most of us are now imbued with a totally different spirit. The great majority have shown their deep admiration and affection for Sir Freddie Laker — a man of the kind of man who could carry his employees with him, either the airline would be profitable or the Government would be in a position to make it so by getting tough with those countries whose airlines could be seen to be in receipt of subsidies on United Kingdom routes. After all, it is these subsidised airlines, including our own British Airways, which have grounded Laker Airways. It was not lack of efficiency.

A revitalized and profitable BA, with Sir Freddie as its boss, would be a natural investment for tens of thousands of people who would not have been able to visit distant lands without his vision and resolve and this has been well illustrated by wide public support shown for him in recent days.
Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY HOLLAND,
7-8 Warwick Street, W1.
February 8

From Mr D. C. Damant
Sir, Your leader on the collapse of Laker Airways does not, I think, go to the heart of the matter. Air fares across the Atlantic and on many other routes are too low. The fact that cartel arrangements may in some places protect inefficiency does not take away from the fact that attempts to lower fares has produced revenues inadequate to cover the real cost of the considerable capital employed in the purchase of expensive aircraft.

In a world of scarce resources, the greatest benefits are obtained by the efficient use of capital, not by its careless consumption. The Laker affair shows that one cannot fly in the face of reality forever.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID C. DAMANT,
Garrard House,
Gresham Street, EC2.
February 8

Unions and the media

From Mr Michael Meacher, MP for Oldham, West (Labour)
Sir, The Aslef dispute has highlighted yet again the bias in the press treatment of industrial relations. It took "blacklisting" action by Aslef members at Kings Cross to secure a right of reply to the Sun's front-page and uncorroborated and indiscriminate allegations of "fiddling and cheating" by railmen. Many deplored the blacklisting, but did any of them also demand that a right of reply be formally instituted so that it does not have to be enforced by such means in future?

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Such examples are legion at the time of every major industrial dispute. It is high time newspaper proprietors that freedom of the press does not mean a

SDP and socialism

From Mr R. G. Sawyer
Sir, In case your readers should believe that the Reverend Martin Camroux and Mr Lacey (February 2) represent a widespread internal view of the SDP, may I suggest that they are in fact suffering from a severe attack of "future shock".
They make it clear that their only motive for joining the SDP was the accelerating process of dissolution within the Labour Party. It is obvious that this factor will have motivated many recruits, but it has always been equally obvious that the majority of SDP members never conceived the new party to be any sort of modification of the Labour Party, but it Mark 4 or 24.
Your correspondents' belief that adherence to selected political stances of the past is the only legitimate path to truth and social justice merely emphasizes their mistake in thinking that the SDP was to be a reformed version of a discredited model. It is their determination to stick to the clichés of the past that is divisive, not the search for consensus.
None of us believes that the class divisions of centuries can be healed easily, but seeking agree-

Dangers of lead in petrol

From the Managing Director of the Associated Ocel Company Limited

Sir, Your leader of today's date (February 9) appears to indicate that some new medical evidence has been found upon which remarks about lead and mental health could be based.
The fact remains that no new medical evidence has been produced to support the original interpretation of Needleman's work, published in 1978. While not questioning the quality of the results, the interpretation placed on those results is still open to question, and in fact was rejected by the Lawther committee. A number of medical studies are now in progress throughout the world to try to clarify the issue.

The loudness of the clamour from the CLEAR campaign is not evidence. Expressions of opinion are clearly the right of everyone. The unwillingness of the media in general to provide an equal opportunity for those not in agreement with the CLEAR campaign and its predecessors to present their views, can at best be described as censorship.
Yours very truly,
A. E. J. YELLAND,
Managing Director,
The Associated Ocel Company Limited,
20 Berkeley Square, W1.
February 9

From the Director General of the United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association Limited
Sir, The investment cost figure of £200m mentioned in your leader (February 9) does not relate to elimination of lead from petrol, as you suggest, but to reduction of lead content from 0.4 grams/litre to 0.15 g/l.
One of the possible solutions considered by Government last year as a means of reducing lead emissions was the introduction of unleaded 92 octane petrol in which the car population could progressively switch. The oil industry made clear its willingness to accept this and it would be quite untrue to suggest that we sought to prevent it. However, we recognise that such a step would have widespread implications for the motor industry, for energy conservation and for EEC commitments which only Government could assess.

In the end, Government decided that the alternative course of a reduction in lead level to 0.15 g/l and the oil industry is now working towards implementing this, at considerable expense. Obviously, the major part of this expenditure would be redundant if Government decided to move to 92 octane unleaded petrol thereafter.
Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HARVEY,
Director General,
United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association Ltd,
9 Kingsway, WC2.
February 9

From Mr J. A. Day
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The board entirely agrees with your correspondents that poetry is central to any study of English literature, but it does not wish to make it an examination requirement for all candidates. The continued popularity of this syllabus suggests that English teachers welcome the freedom to choose a selection of books which is suitable for their own students and which provides them with rewarding and enjoyable study.
Yours faithfully,
J. A. DAY, Secretary General,
The Associated Examining Board for the General Certificate of Education,
Wellington House,
Aldershot,
Hampshire,
January 28

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Solo performance

From Mrs Pauline Hallam
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Yours sincerely,
PAULINE HALLAM,
13 Blind Lane,
Bourne End,
Buckinghamshire,
February 9

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Yours faithfully,
ROBERT G. SAWYER,
Vice-Chairman, Dunbartonshire SDP,
Woodend, 33 Queen Street,
Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire.

Proper names

From Lieutenant-Colonel B. W. W. Barrett
Sir, After a number of years of overseas service, I treasure the electricity accounts I have been receiving since my return to England, addressed to: "Colonial Barrett".
I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,
B. W. W. BARRETT,
8 Newlands Avenue,
Raddlet, Hertfordshire.

Dangers of lead in petrol

From the Managing Director of the Associated Ocel Company Limited

Sir, Your leader of today's date (February 9) appears to indicate that some new medical evidence has been found upon which remarks about lead and mental health could be based.
The fact remains that no new medical evidence has been produced to support the original interpretation of Needleman's work, published in 1978. While not questioning the quality of the results, the interpretation placed on those results is still open to question, and in fact was rejected by the Lawther committee. A number of medical studies are now in progress throughout the world to try to clarify the issue.

The loudness of the clamour from the CLEAR campaign is not evidence. Expressions of opinion are clearly the right of everyone. The unwillingness of the media in general to provide an equal opportunity for those not in agreement with the CLEAR campaign and its predecessors to present their views, can at best be described as censorship.
Yours very truly,
A. E. J. YELLAND,
Managing Director,
The Associated Ocel Company Limited,
20 Berkeley Square, W1.
February 9

From the Director General of the United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association Limited
Sir, The investment cost figure of £200m mentioned in your leader (February 9) does not relate to elimination of lead from petrol, as you suggest, but to reduction of lead content from 0.4 grams/litre to 0.15 g/l.

One of the possible solutions considered by Government last year as a means of reducing lead emissions was the introduction of unleaded 92 octane petrol in which the car population could progressively switch. The oil industry made clear its willingness to accept this and it would be quite untrue to suggest that we sought to prevent it. However, we recognise that such a step would have widespread implications for the motor industry, for energy conservation and for EEC commitments which only Government could assess.

In the end, Government decided that the alternative course of a reduction in lead level to 0.15 g/l and the oil industry is now working towards implementing this, at considerable expense. Obviously, the major part of this expenditure would be redundant if Government decided to move to 92 octane unleaded petrol thereafter.

Yours faithfully,
DOUGLAS HARVEY,
Director General,
United Kingdom Petroleum Industry Association Ltd,
9 Kingsway, WC2.
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From Mr Neville Braybrooke
Sir, I have not been to Le Gavroche restaurant. But turbot in a port wine sauce sounds a vile mixture. What about a dish of sardines and prunes as a starter?
Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE BRAYBROOKE,
10 Gardnor Road, NW3.
February 6

Focus on ZIMBABWE

Despite constitutional barriers and far from overwhelming support for his ZANU-PF party at the independence elections in 1980 (see chart), the Prime Minister Mr Robert Mugabe maintains that one-party rule is only a matter of timing. Michael Hornsby assesses his efforts to win over all sections of the population and, in a second article, his schizophrenic relationship with South Africa.

The reopening of the parliamentary assembly in Salisbury last month after the Christmas break was a reassuringly familiar spectacle. The green leather benches, white-wigged speaker and ritual exchanges of insults between MPs all suggested that the Westminster model bequeathed by the Lancaster House agreement to black-ruled Zimbabwe was alive and well. But the trappings were deceptive. For Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwean Prime Minister, has set course for something much closer to the black African convention of a one-party republic in what has been officially named "the year of transformation".

So far as Mr Mugabe and his Zanu-PF party are concerned, as he explained in an interview in his Salisbury office, the goal is not in dispute. It is simply a question of when it can be achieved. The "when" is, of course, all important, not least because of the restraints built into the Lancaster House constitution, and the obvious danger of trying to push ahead without the full support of the country's other major political force, Mr Joshua Nkomo's Patriotic Front (PF), formerly Zapu.

After dropping the subject for some months, Mr Mugabe revived the one-party state issue during a populist "meet-the-people" tour of rural areas last month in terms that sent tremors through Western embassies in Salisbury, and drew an angry response from Mr Nkomo who evidently suspected an attempt to hustle him into a merger of his party with Mr Mugabe's.

In private conversation, Mr Mugabe uses much more moderate language. There is, he insists, no question of enforcing a one-party state, which must come about by the "democratic will of the people" (a referendum is mentioned) but he is convinced that Zimbabwe, at its present stage of reconstruction and development cannot afford the luxury of multi-party squabbling, and that political differences should be worked out "under the umbrella" of a single political structure. This is a familiar argument in Africa.

It is obviously of concern to Mr Mugabe that, despite winning 57 of the 80 common roll seats at the independence elections, he does not have a truly national base, Zanu's support having been built essentially on a Shona-speaking constituency in the north and east. The Shona group accounts for some 80 per

cent of the population, but has a history of clan rivalry and political fragmentation, whereas the 20 per cent of the population in the south and west who are Ndebele speakers, and who form the base of Mr Nkomo's support, have always been much more united.

The attractions for Mr Mugabe of bringing Mr Nkomo into the fold are thus evident. Mr Nkomo himself is in a more difficult position. If he continues to play the game of conventional party politics, he appears to be condemned to be a permanent minority (unless he can extend his support to dissident Shona elements), but if he accepts the offer of union with Zanu he would be in danger of being submerged and losing even the base that he has. Better, he may calculate, to stay in coalition (albeit in a non-job as minister without portfolio), retain a separate political identity, and hope to improve his position at the next elections in 1985.

There is a long history of distrust between Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo dating back to the early years of the nationalist movement, and Mr Nkomo views with deep suspicion the formation of the Fifth Army Brigade, a body of 5,000 men drawn almost exclusively from the ranks of former Zanu guerrillas loyal to Mr Mugabe.

On the face of it, the constitutional hurdle in the way of a one-party state looks pretty insurmountable for the time being. The right of political association is one of the entrenched clauses of the Lancaster House settlement, and for 10 years can only be amended by a unanimous vote of the 100 MPs in the Assembly. The 20 MPs of the Republican (formerly Rhodesian) Front party of Mr Ian Smith would obviously block any change, even if Mr Nkomo's PF, which holds 20 of the common roll seats, and Bishop Muzorewa's UANC, which holds three, did not.

The whites are guaranteed 20 seats only until 1987. After that it might be easier to muster near-unanimity for the one-party state idea provided Mr Nkomo could be brought round, but will the horsebreds in the Zanu-PF central committee wait that long?

Any attempt to ride roughshod over the entrenched clauses of the Lancaster House constitution would obviously alarm Zimbabwe's friends in the West, who stumped up some £1,000m in aid over three years at the

Zimbabwe conference on reconstruction and development (Zimcon) early last year, and frightened off private foreign investment, which has been very slow to arrive. It would also add to the nervousness of local whites whose rate of exodus went up sharply last year.

In fairness, it should be said that the idea of a one-party state is accepted much more readily by whites inside the country than foreign opinion without. Many white businessmen and farmers see positive merit in it if it produces greater stability.

The wedding together of the former 30,000 Zanu (Mugabe) and 20,000 Zipu (Nkomo) guerrillas into a new army of 50,000 men, which also includes the 15,000-strong former Rhodesian army, has been a remarkable achievement.

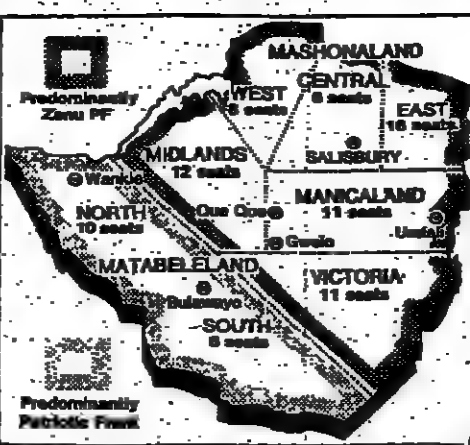
The last serious clash occurred a year ago in Bulawayo when fighting broke out between three Zipu and Zanu battalions after an incident in a beer-hall, and was only quelled by the intervention of old Rhodesian Army units and the White-plated air force. More than 300 guerrillas and civilians may have been killed.

That blood-letting seems to have served as a salutary lesson to all concerned, particularly the Zipu forces which came off worst (though the discovery last weekend of large illegal arms caches on Zipu-owned farms suggests that some at least of Mr Nkomo's men are still hoping to even the score). The main problem now is reducing the army to a more manageable and less costly size of about 40,000 men so as to relieve more funds for pressing social reforms.

Under pressure to satisfy the expectations aroused by independence, Mr Mugabe's Government has pressed ahead with egalitarian social reforms such as free primary schooling and free medical care for the lower paid.

There is a lack of certainty about the Government's intentions on public ownership. So far the Government has limited itself to buying out the previous South African majority holding in the country's newspapers, to taking over one of the country's three banks, and to acquiring a 42 per cent share in the country's biggest pharmaceutical company. However, a Bill now before Parliament would also give the Government control of the marketing of minerals.

continued on page 11



Voicing patterns in the 1980 election (excluding white seats)

The balance of power

Both Mr Robert Mugabe and Mr Joshua Nkomo, leaders of ZANU-PF and the Patriotic Front respectively, regularly denounce tribalism and assert that observers see too much in the divide between the Shona and Matabele peoples. With ZANU-PF dominant in the east and the Patriotic Front supreme in the west, it is nevertheless still a potent force in national politics. Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council became the major party of the Zimbabwe Rhodesia administration, drawing on the same regional support which subsequently went to Mr Mugabe.

The 20 white members of the House of Assembly, entrenched for seven years from independence under the constitution, were elected by the white-roll constituencies in force before independence. The remaining 80 common roll seats were fought under a party list system in which voters in a large electoral region indicated a choice of political party.

Link with trading partner

Zimbabwe's foreign policy is dominated by its schizophrenic relationship with South Africa, the looming, and as seen from Salisbury, threatening presence - south of the Limpopo which Mr Mugabe and his government, for all their off-proclaimed abhorrence of apartheid, cannot do without for solid commercial and economic reasons.

South Africa is by far and away Zimbabwe's biggest trading partner, taking 18 per cent of its exports (41 per cent of manufactured goods), and supplying 32 per cent of its imports. It is position of dominance, strongly reinforced during the period of UDI, when other trade avenues were closed off or restricted.

Zimbabwe is also crucially dependent on South Africa's road and rail system and ports, through which pass some 75 to 80 per cent of its imports and exports, as well as nearly all its oil requirements (giving rise to accusations last year that Pretoria was to blame for shortages of diesel and petrol). Awareness of their economic vulnerability has not deterred Zimbabwe's leaders from castigating at every turn the policies of the "apartheid racist regime". The approved formula which Zimbabwean television newscasters are now instructed to use in any reference to South Africa: "It is axiomatic in Salisbury that Pretoria cannot tolerate on its northern border a stable, prosperous and above all multi-racial African state, and that it is, therefore, doing everything it can to 'destabilize' the economies of Zimbabwe and its neighbours."

Yet Mr Mugabe is clear-eyed enough to see that there is no alternative to practical coexistence. Spurning diplomatic and political relations, he has said that he wants economic and trade links to be maintained, and has offered assurances that Zimbabwe will not be used as a base for guerrilla attacks against South Africa.

For its part, Pretoria has still not fully recovered from the shock of Mr Mugabe's emergence, about which the South Africans miscalculated more disastrously than most, and there is pressure from Mr Botha's hardliners to use the economic weapon to punish Zimbabwe for its verbal impudence.

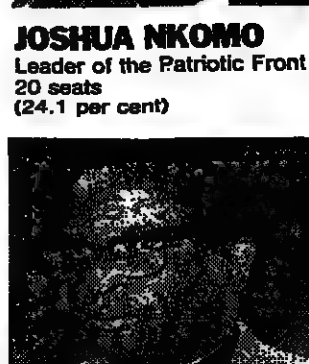
A test of Pretoria's attitude over the coming weeks will be the fate of an 18-year-old preferential trade agreement, due to expire at the end of March, under which some 24 per cent of Zimbabwe's total manufactured exports enjoy low-tariff, and in some cases duty-free, entry to South Africa.

South Africa abruptly announced the termination of the agreement in April of last year, but last month indicated willingness to reconsider. Zimbabwe's chances of reducing trade links with South Africa and restoring the kind of commercial relationship with neighbouring black states which it had

ROBERT MUGABE
Prime Minister and leader of ZANU-PF
57 seats
(82.9 per cent of votes)



JOSHUA NKOMO
Leader of the Patriotic Front
20 seats
(24.1 per cent)



BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA

Former Prime Minister of Zimbabwe Rhodesia and leader of the United African Council
3 seats
(8.2 per cent)



IAN SMITH

Former Prime Minister of Rhodesia and leader of the Republican (formerly Rhodesian) Front; all 20 seats on white voters' roll (includes Asians and mixed races)

before UDI and sanctions (as a net exporter not only of food but also manufactured products, services and some capital goods) are hampered not least by the persistent balance of payments difficulties of these countries.

There are better hopes of reducing dependence on South Africa's transport system and thereby also opening up possibilities for other landlocked countries in the region whose lines of communication pass through Zimbabwe. The natural route for Zimbabwe's trade is through the Mozambique ports of Beira and Maputo.

Although the rail lines to Beira and Maputo were reopened in 1980, the two ports are still handling less than 20 per cent of Zimbabwe's trade. Beira needs heavy dredging, can only take ships of less than 25,000 tons and has no container

facility. Maputo, though bigger and better equipped, is still hampered by the loss of Portuguese technicians, and a lack of telegraph and telephone links.

This helps to explain Zimbabwe's strong commitment to SADC (Southern African Development Conference), which unites it with eight other black states in the region - Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Swaziland, Tanzania and Zambia - in an endeavour to promote self-reliance and reduce dependence on South Africa.

Zimbabwe's potential as the industrial engine-room and granary of the SADC grouping (it is the only member state with a food surplus) is sufficient cause for the deep dislike it arouses in Pretoria, which had hopes of luring its neighbours into

a "constellation" of Southern African states intended, in part, to legitimize the Bantustan homelands.

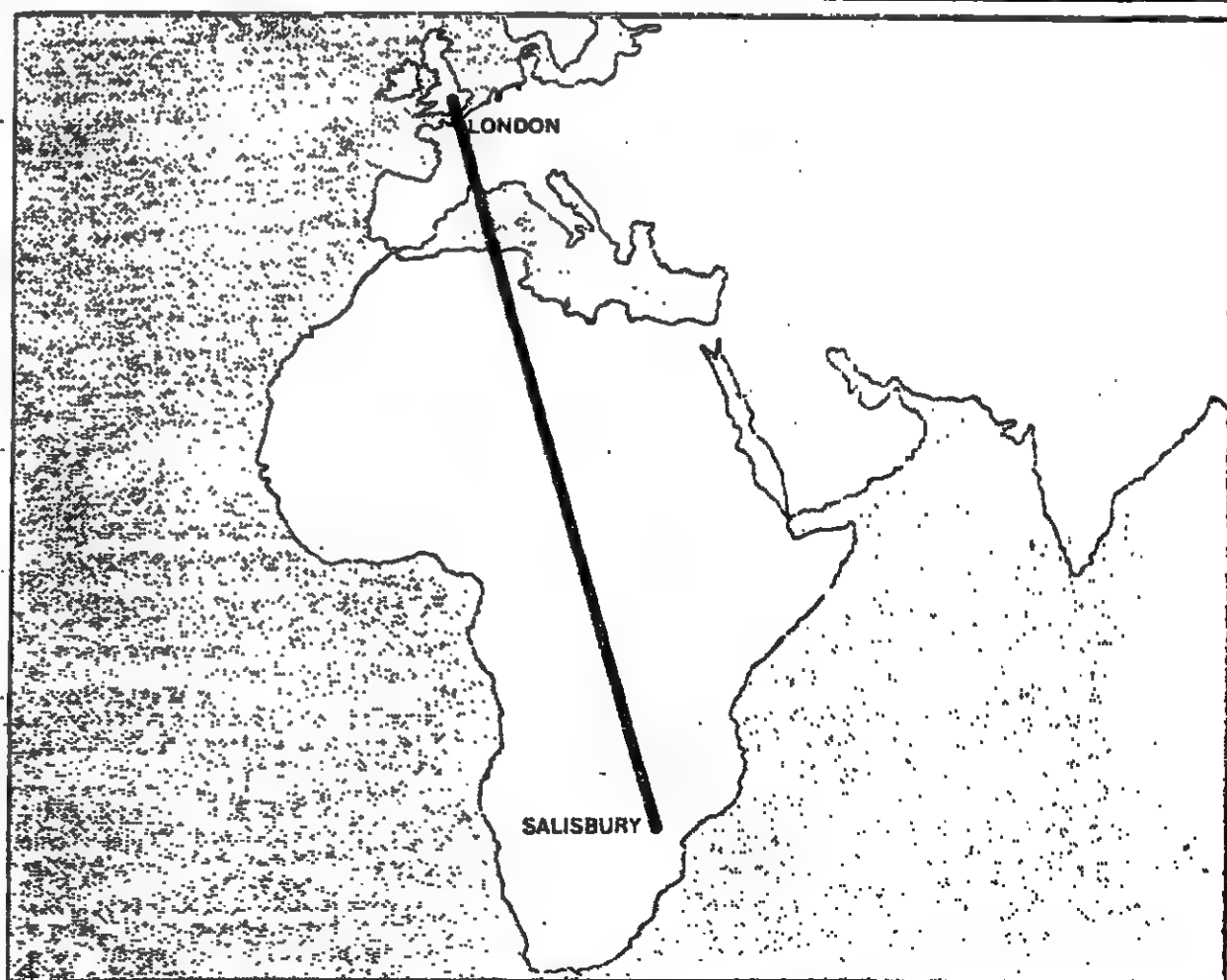
Mr Mugabe's relations with President Samora Machel of Mozambique, forged during the years of guerrilla struggle when Zanu had its war base in Maputo, are close, and there has been discussion (and so far only that) of Zimbabwe's sending in its large and under-occupied army to help combat the insurgents, who are mainly made up of former black members of the Portuguese Armed Forces.

Salisbury and Maputo are both convinced, rightly or wrongly, that the Mozambique insurgents would not be as successful as they are at sabotaging rail and port facilities without the enthusiastic assistance of the South Africans, who predictably

enough disclaim any interest in mischief-making of this kind.

One target of the insurgents, The Lonrho-owned oil pipeline from Beira to Umtali, has now been extensively renovated, and at full capacity should easily be able to handle all Zimbabwe's diesel and petrol requirements provided agreement can be reached on a fee for its use. Running for 30 miles of its length above ground, it remains, however, very vulnerable to attack.

The pipeline would remove one element of Zimbabwe's dependence on South Africa, for the rest, any over-hasty attempt to reduce trade and transport links on its giant neighbour would cause great economic disruption with ripple effects on foreign investment and the rate of exodus of white skills.



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The boom in the first year of independence has subsided. Stephen Taylor takes stock of the economic realities today and then a more detailed look at the clouds over the mining industry and farming prospects.

Weak performance blights early bright economic prospects

The boisterous real growth of the economy in the first year of independence following the lifting of sanctions, officially recorded at 14 per cent, slowed down to 8 per cent in 1981 and gives every indication of dropping another two percentage points this year. The slowdown was due to a weaker performance by the mining sector compounded by foreign currency limitations, transport problems and shortages of skills.

A year ago inflation was low and there was a comfortable level of foreign currency reserves but since then inflation has doubled to 16 per cent and foreign reserves have dropped to the equivalent of about two months of imports.

These trends have been countered by drastically curbing foreign currency allocations for two quarters running, raising interest rates and discouraging consumer credit while at the same time Government has had increasing recourse to short-term foreign borrowing and has used credits to maintain import levels.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe says that although it is too early to judge the effectiveness of these measures there are encouraging signs that the explosion in domestic demand is starting to abate and the acceleration in inflation has been curbed. However the new minimum wage for industrial workers alone, which came into effect on January 1, is expected to increase consumer demand by Z\$200m.

The deterioration in the balance of payments is causing concern although one of the contributing factors, transport difficulties, is being relieved. By the end of last year there had been a substantial easing following the arrival of locomotives on loan from South Africa and improvement in maintenance which has brought repaired stock back into service.

At the same time government spending, 66 per cent of it recurrent, has substantially increased and the latest review by the Reserve Bank contains a warning to both Government and the private sector that strenuous efforts should be made to relate

growth in expenditure to levels "more in line with the expansion of the economy's productive capacity".

Agriculture was a mainstay last year. The record maize crop and the highest prices ever paid in Zimbabwe for tobacco were principal features of a bumper harvest which saw the value of crops increase by 70 per cent on 1981.

Manufacturing output continued to grow although there were indications that it was levelling off. The most recent figures show that in the third quarter of last year production grew 8.4 per cent on 1980. The rate was higher in the first and second quarters and the overall figure for the first nine months showed an increase of 11.5 per cent. Transport equipment followed by clothing, footwear and chemicals.

Prospects for 1982 are affected by the foreign currency cutbacks — 10 per cent for the present quarter following the 15 per cent reduction for the final quarter last year — and the new minimum wage providing for an increase from Z\$85 to Z\$105 for industrial, commercial and mining workers. The wages are part of a package announced in December which constitute the Government's response to the Riddell commission of inquiry into incomes, prices and conditions of service.

The measures went further than the Riddell proposals which had envisaged a cautious rise over three years to 30 per cent of the poverty datum line. The government package also brought in a price freeze until March, prohibited retrenchment and placed a limit on the increase that could be paid to higher earners.

Many employees in commerce and industry were already being paid the new minimum and the effect will be felt less than in the mining sector.

Mining experienced a miserable year, its difficulties stemming from low international market prices for minerals, and the total value of production for the first 10 months of 1981 was Z\$319m, a fall of 7.4 per cent on 1980. Mining companies are further bothered by the Government's intention to set up a minerals marketing authority which will be responsible for selling all Zimbabwe's minerals apart from gold.

A boom in consumer demand last year, which outstripped availability and higher domestic costs led to a sharp increase in inflation. By the end of the third quarter it stood at 17.4 per cent — 2 per cent up on the previous quarter — compared with 8 per cent over 1980. At the same time retail sales were 3 per cent up on 1980 levels.

There were implications for the Government's three-year economic development plan, *Growth with Equity*, published last year, which is based on an anticipated real growth rate of 8 per cent. The recent report of *The Economist Intelligence Unit* believes that that rate is unlikely to be maintained although between 6 and 6.5 per cent is possible, provided problems of skill shortages and transport are curbed.

A restricted growth of exports, resulting from those problems, set against high import levels (principally machinery, transport equipment, industrial raw materials and liquid fuels) saw a trade surplus of Z\$109m for the first eight months of 1981 turned into a visible deficit of Z\$49m for the same period last year. In spite of the various measures being taken to reduce the deficit the Reserve Bank sees little prospect of a return to a surplus before the international economy shows a meaningful recovery.

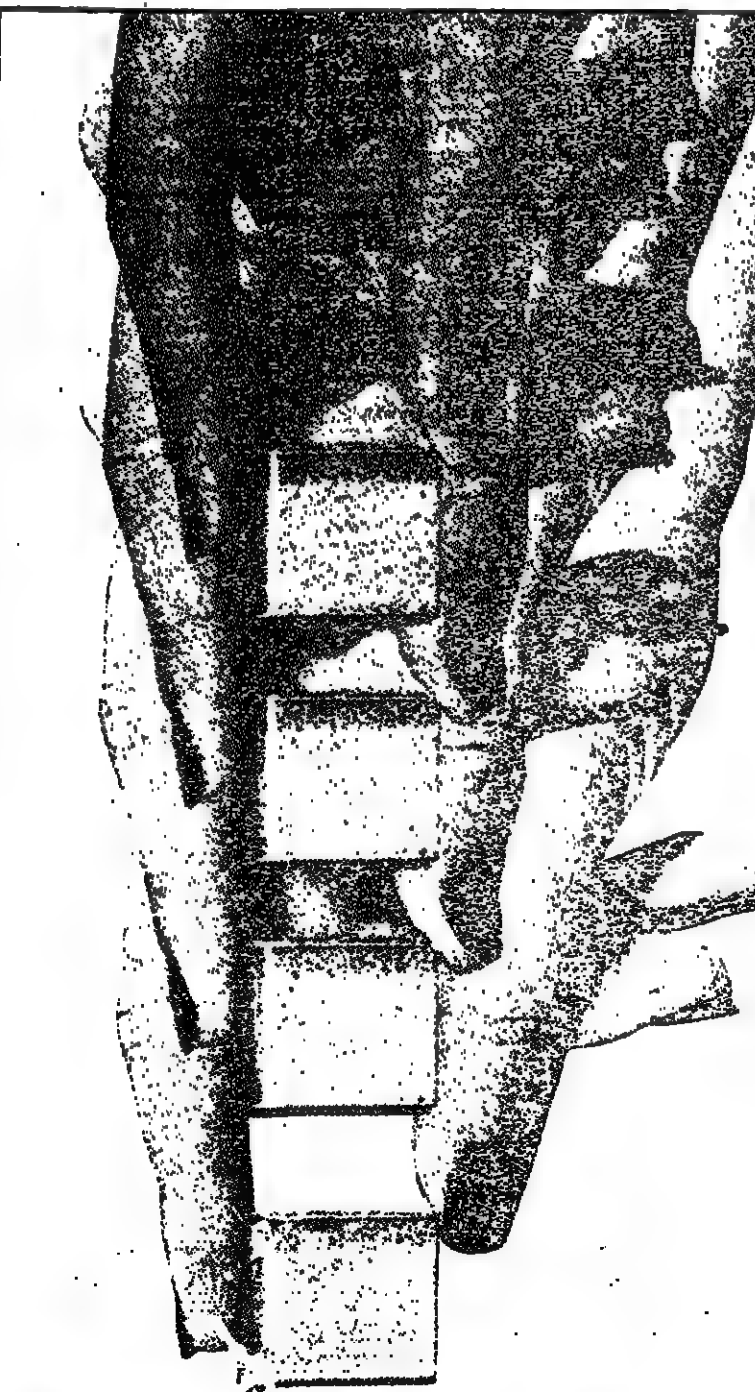
Meanwhile the deficit in government spending, is being financed mainly by foreign borrowing. During the first quarter of the present financial year government spending amounted to Z\$364.5m compared with Z\$299.7m for the same period of the previous year. Budgeted expenditure for the present financial year is Z\$2,006m of which 58.5 per cent will come from diverse taxation, 9.2 per cent from other revenue and 32.3 per cent from borrowing. Of the total spending 66 per cent will be for recurrent expenditure, 15 per cent for debt servicing and 19 per cent for capital investment.

South Africa is by far Zimbabwe's most important trading partner, buying more than a fifth of all the country's exports, excluding gold, and supplying more than a quarter of its imports, excluding oil. Pretoria's decision last year to scrap the preferential trade agreement which has existed between the two countries since UDI consequently carried ominous implications — for manufacturers of furniture, textiles, clothing and electronics goods in particular. It now seems that there is agreement in principle to renew the agreement but the terms are unlikely to be as favourable to Zimbabwe as in the past.

Britain is the second most important trading partner followed by West Germany, the United States and other EEC countries. However, the Government is keen to diversify its trade and a visit by the Prime Minister to three Balkan states last year is expected to lead to increasing trade with East Europe.

Package brings in price freeze

Concern over the longer strategy



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A major commitment to the future is the large-scale expansion of opencast coal mining at Wankie to fuel a new thermal station to meet Zimbabwe's growing needs for power.

It all adds up to a substantial stake in a land of promise.

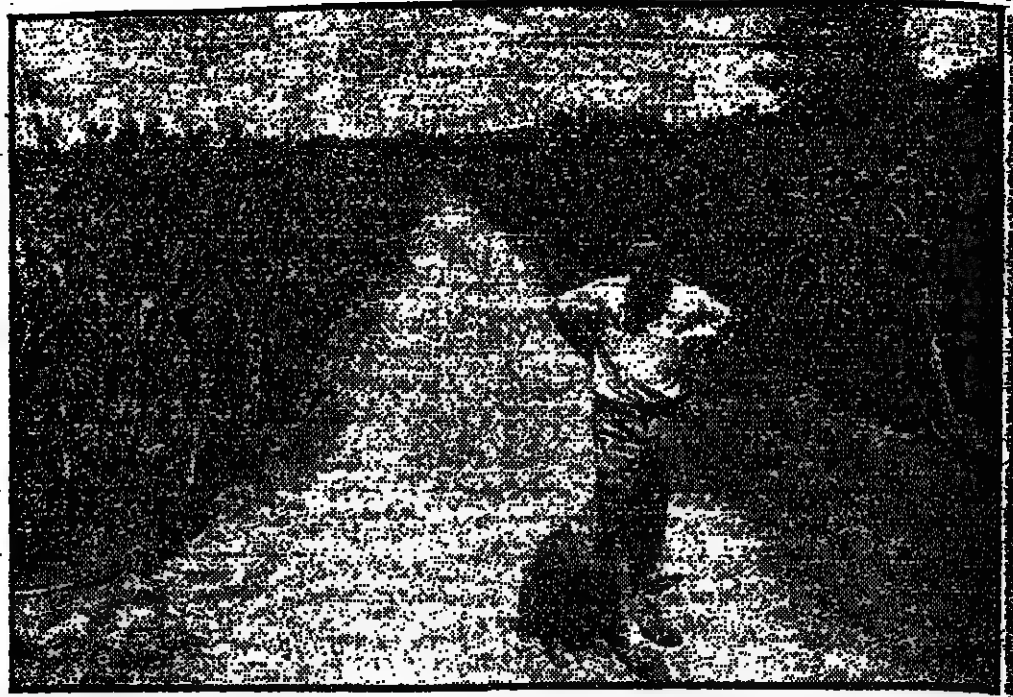
aac

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IN ZIMBABWE

AGRICULTURE

Down to earth with a bump



An abundant maize crop, but how much longer will this white farmer own it? Land settlement remains one of the country's thorniest problems.

After a record season which exceeded the wildest hopes of both farmers and government, agriculture, on which 75 per cent of the population depend for their livelihood, is approaching the 1981-82 season with more modest expectations.

Last year's bumper harvest encountered considerable marketing and transport problems, but it underlined Zimbabwe as the leading agricultural exporter in black Africa and demonstrated vividly to the Government the value of an efficient commercial farming sector.

A perfect growing season saw tobacco again become the country's top foreign currency earner and produced the country's largest-ever maize harvest. Sales of major crops up to September amounted to Z\$495.8m, more than 70 per cent up on the previous year.

White farmers, who were the most enthusiastic supporters of the Smith Administration and bore the brunt of the guerrilla war, were riding on a wave of prosperity that few would have thought possible under majority rule.

Mr James Sinclair, president of the Commercial Farmers' Union, which represents 4,800 white and 200 black farmers, recently spelt out the reasons for the evaporation of last season's euphoria.

● Drought has affected some of the best land in the country as well as the so-called communal lands of black peasant farmers who contributed 10 per cent to total output last year. This season they are unlikely to produce more than a subsistence crop while overall prospects are expected to be reduced by 40 per cent.

● The increase in the minimum wage for farm workers from Z\$30 to Z\$50 will, says CFU, have a marked effect on the incentive to grow labour-intensive crops such as tobacco, cotton, tea and coffee — all important exports. There are other implications which are the subject of discussions

between the CFU and the Government.

● A drastic reduction in the foreign currency allocations to buy farm equipment. The quota for tractors has been reduced from Z\$1.65m for the last quarter to Z\$313,000 and the allocation for large tractors and combines has been scrapped altogether.

● Concern over the latest projections on the land resettlement programme issued by the Government. The CFU says that if land areas cited in the document are adhered to, the Government will have to acquire more than 60 per cent of the land now owned by commercial farmers.

● This year's maize harvest is estimated at between one million and 1.3 million tonnes compared with 2.5 million tonnes last year. Prospects for tobacco are nowhere near as good this year, even though about 1350 tobacco growers have planted 125,000 acres, according to Mr Bert Palmer,

president of the Tobacco Growers Association. The Cotton Growers Association is also worried. In spite of last year's record revenue it says that farmers are disillusioned with the crop because of low prices.

Soya beans and wheat are expected to be about the same as last year. There will be substantial beef shortages because herds depleted by the war have still not been fully built up. The dairy industry is experiencing serious shortages of milk which have already resulted in some important products being withdrawn.

The CFU is lobbying strongly in the foreign currency and land issues and believes that changes can be achieved.

The most important negotiations in the agricultural calendar, the annual price-fixing talks between the CFU and the Government, began last month in a more than usually charged atmosphere following the 66 per cent wage increase.

The CFU refuses to disclose what increases are being sought but confirms that some commodities will have to go up by 15 per cent just to meet the higher wage bills.

If the negotiations are not successful, the farmers' side says, "The result could be loss of jobs and a loss in production of essential food and cash crops."

Squatters have been less of a problem than was anticipated last year, and most of the areas taken over are land which has been bought by the Government for resettlement but has not yet been utilized because of administrative delays.

In one recent notable case, a white farmer who has been prevented by squatters from using his land won a court order to have them moved.

Nevertheless, as the agricultural sector looks to the future with a continued sense of optimism, the land issue seems likely to remain a cloud over long-term prospects.

MINING

A period of distress

Although economists believe that Zimbabwe's diverse mining industry can look forward to sustained growth from next year until 1985, it is now, in the words of a senior official, going through a period of distress, stemming from declining production and low prices for key minerals.

The statistics speak for the importance of the industry: more than 40 minerals are mined, producing more than 50 per cent of foreign exchange earnings. They include major deposits of gold, chrome and asbestos; indeed, Zimbabwe is the second largest chrome producer, and has the largest high-grade deposits in the world.

Other important minerals are nickel, copper, coal, iron, silver and tin, although most deposits of these are low grade they are generally contained within small areas, making the mining operation flexible and low in investment cost.

Metallurgists believe that detailed surveys would reveal further resources, and one recent estimate put the total mineral wealth of the country at more than Z\$40,000m.

Against these impressive figures must be set a gloomy picture, largely based on world prices, which has carried over from 1981 and looks like extending well into the year. At the same time anxiety in the industry is high over the implications of the Minerals Marketing Bill which has been approved by Parliament.

The year of independence was a good one with the value of mineral production reaching Z\$414m, a record for the eighteenth successive year. What that figure does not disclose, however, is the

steady decline in production volume which by February last year was 22 per cent down on the peak in 1976.

The downward trend was particularly noticeable last year. By October, the last month for which figures are available, production was valued at only Z\$319m and one informed estimate puts total 1981 production at Z\$375m.

A key factor was the loss of skilled staff, a national problem but one which has had a particularly deleterious effect on mining because, says Mr Roy Lander, president of the Chamber of Mines, "we mine a pretty low grade product and we must be efficient to be profitable."

Expanded training programmes are not expected to bring much relief this year, and costs will go up by more than 20 per cent. Interest rates have doubled and Mr Lander says the increase in the minimum wage from Z\$85 a month to Z\$105 will

put up the mining wage bill to Z\$200m for the year.

The Government's appreciation of the problem has prompted it to call a one-year moratorium on two changes in taxation budgeted last year — a reduction in the capital redemption allowance and abolition of the depletion allowance — which would have increased mining taxes considerably.

But if companies such as Anglo-American, Rio Tinto, Lonrho, Union Carbide and Turner and Newall are pleased with the Government's consideration of their difficulties, they remain deeply concerned over its decision to establish a state-run minerals marketing board with wide-ranging powers and responsibilities for selling all mineral output.

Mr Maurice Nyagumbo, the Minister of Mines insists that the creation of the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe — which was approved by Parliament

in January — is not a first step to nationalising the industry but is a necessary participation in the disposal of a strategic and non-renewable resource. The Government is also clearly concerned that there have been malpractices through transfer pricing and under-invoicing of sister companies outside the country.

In response, the Chamber of Mines says that no instances of malpractices have been cited and that the powers of the new board enable it to "take over the marketing function completely, to control the size of producers' stockpiles and therefore (their) rate of production, to take possession of producers' outputs long before payment (is) made, to negotiate binding contracts for the sale of minerals without incurring any legal liabilities or responsibilities and to hold on to... the industry's revenue for periods of up to 30 days".

Syffrets Merchant Bank holds the key to Zimbabwe



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THE MERCHANT BANK OF THE ZIMBABWE GROUP
Zimbabwe House, Samora Machel Avenue, P.O. Box 1108, Salisbury, Zimbabwe. Telephone 704561. Telex 4-113RH, Telegraph Amnercosa.

FOCUS

Compiled by Alan Grainge

Businessmen's Brief

The Republic of Zimbabwe became a fully independent state within the Commonwealth on April 18, 1980. Parliamentary elections to the House of Assembly, with 100 seats divided between African and white members in the ratio of 80:20, resulted in an overall majority for Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front) party, Zanu (PF) — which draws its support principally from the majority Shona tribe — with 57 seats.

Mr Joshua Nkomo's mainly Ndebele party, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (Zapu), secured 20 seats and the United African National Congress (UANC) led by the former premier, Bishop Muzorewa, the other three. The 20 seats allocated to whites were all won by Mr Ian Smith's Rhodesian Front party, since renamed the Republican Front.

Mr Mugabe's administration has been moderate and neither oppressive of the white minority, as some had feared, nor Marxist in style, as some pre-independence indications of Zanu (PF) policy had appeared to threaten.

The government has given priority to the need to revive the economy and to repair the damage caused by the years of economic sanctions and of guerrilla warfare. These policies have received substantial financial support from the World Bank and some western countries.

The Economy

Towards the end of 1981 there were signs of a decline in the impressive economic growth established in the 18 months after independence. This was partly due to the pressure on foreign exchange

reserves and the consequent decision in September to impose cuts in import allocations. Another factor was the serious lack of locomotives for freight transport. By mid-1981 only half the 220 required were in service, but the decision, in December, by the South African government to restore the 24 previously on loan and the expected delivery of another 60 from the USA promised to avert a major crisis.

In addition, the possibility also reported last month of retaining the preferential trading relations with South Africa, which it had been believed were to cease at the beginning of 1982, gives further grounds for an expectation of a return to a higher rate of growth in the economy this year.

Growth in the manufacturing sector continues to be inhibited by the chronic shortage of skilled labour, but agriculture, particularly the production of maize and tobacco, continued in 1981 the satisfactory growth of 1980.

While inflationary pressure remains high, and economists are forecasting a rate of about 15 per cent for 1982, the government has given clear indications of its readiness to adopt counter measures.

Now that some other uncertainties have also been removed there seem to be genuine possibilities of Zimbabwe returning in 1982 to the kind of economic growth rate achieved in the first year of independence.

Development Plans

At the Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development (ZimCORD) in March 1981 more than 70 delegations offered commitments to contribute a total of \$21.28 billion in aid over a period of three years. The government has specified

five areas in which the funds will be used: Land settlement and rural development; repair and reconstruction of war damage; resettlement of war refugees and war displaced people; training and rehabilitation of former combatants and technical cooperation.

To overcome the housing shortage the government has drawn up a Z\$942m five-year plan. This will provide for the construction of 167,000 houses at a cost of Z\$771.5m and a further Z\$30m will be spent on providing about 100,000 houses with electricity.

The high increase in demand for industrial power will be met from two sources: electrical power will be provided by the construction of a Z\$900m thermal power station at Wankie and fuel requirements by the expansion of ethanol production. Population estimated: 7,500,000 Africans and 200,000 Europeans.

Main cities and towns

Salisbury (Harare) — population 627,000. The capital and commercial, industrial and communications centre of the country.

Bulawayo (363,000) A major centre of commerce and industry with good communications by rail, air and road with the rest of Zimbabwe. Heavy engineering concentration.

Umtata (63,000) Main town on the eastern border with road and rail links with the port of Beira. Principal industries are paper milling, food processing and vehicle assembly.

Gwelo (70,000) Situated in the Midlands. Centre of a rich mining area and of growing industrial importance.

Que Que (51,000) Location of the Risco steelworks which has attracted a number of ancillary and new industries.



Wankie (33,000) Situated in the west, has the only operating coal fields in the country and is the site of a coal-fired power station now in the first phase of construction.

The Executive

Prime Minister and Defence: Mr Robert Mugabe
Deputy Prime Minister: Mr Simon Muzenda
Minister without Portfolio: Mr Joshua Nkomo
Foreign Affairs: Mr Witness Mangwanda
Manpower, Planning & Development: Mr Frederick Shava

Finance: Mr Enos Nkala
Justice & Constitutional Affairs: Mr Simbi Maboko
Home Affairs: Mr Richard Hove

Transport: Mr Josiah Chinamano
Industry & Energy: Mr Simba Makoni
Labour & Social Services: Mr Kumbira Kangai
Youth, Sport & Recreation: Mr Ernest Kadungure

Local Government & Housing: Dr Eddison Zvobgo
Lands, Resettlement & Rural Development: Dr Sydney Sekeramayi

Community Development & World Affairs: Mrs Teurai Ropa Nhonzo
Agriculture: Mr Dennis Norman
Natural Resources & Water Development: Mr Joseph Msika
Information & Tourism: Dr Nathan Shamuyarira
Education & Culture: Dr Dzingai Mumbumba
Health: Dr Herbert Ushewokurze
Public Works: Mr Clement Muchachii
Mines: Mr Maurice Nyagumbo

Trade & Commerce: Vacant
Posts & Telecommunications: Vacant

Banks

Citibank
61 Samora Machel Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 793064/793000

RAL Merchant Bank
RAL House
67 Samora Machel Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 703071

Merchant Bank of Central Africa
Livingstone House
Samora Machel Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 7033211

Zimbabwe Banking Corporation
Zimbabank House

Speke Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 700631
Grindlays Bank
1st Floor
Ottoman House
Samora Machel Avenue
Salisbury
Tel: 706351
Bank of Credit and Commerce
Zimbabwe
60 Union Avenue
Union House
Salisbury
Tel: 794624
Barclays Bank International
Barclay House
Stanley Avenue/First Street
Salisbury
Tel: 706301
100 Abercorn Street
Bulawayo
Tel: 71761
The Standard Bank
Cnr Mankia Road/Orr Street
Salisbury
Tel: 791771
Car 8th Avenue/Fife Street
Bulawayo
Tel: 63861

Travel information

Entry regulations
All visitors require passports but nationals of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Commonwealth countries and the Irish Republic do not need visas. Visitors from the United Kingdom intending to stay for less than six months enter Zimbabwe with minimum formalities. Only simple immigration forms need to be completed: no customs forms. But visitors may be asked to prove that their financial resources are sufficient for their stay and to produce a return ticket if arriving by air.

Health certificates
Smallpox certificates are not required; yellow fever certificates are required from visitors arriving from infected areas. Vaccination against cholera is recommended for those visiting rural areas.

Currency
The unit issued by the Reserve Bank is the Zimbabwe dollar divided into 100 cents. The current rate of exchange is approximately:
125 = UKE 0.75
125 = US\$ 1.37

Hotels
Salisbury:
Meikles Hotel
Stanley Avenue
Tel: 707721
Monomatsapa Hotel
54 Park Lane
Tel: 704501
Jameson Hotel
Samora Machel Avenue
Tel: 794641
Ambassador Hotel
Union Avenue
Tel: 708121
Park Lane
Samora Machel Avenue East
Highlands
Bulawayo:
Holiday Inn
Ascot Centre
Tel: 72464
Bulawayo Sun Hotel
19th Avenue/Wilson Street
Tel: 60101
Grey's Inn
73 Grey Street
Tel: 60121
Hotel Cecil
Fife Street/Third Avenue
Tel: 60295

Bookshelf

Zimbabwe: A 100 page report on commercial, economic and political issues. Price £150. Published by Atlantis Consulting Services Ltd, 101-103 Great Portland Street, London W1N 6BH.
The Europa Yearbook: Europa Publications Ltd, 18 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JN.
The 1980 edition costs £30 and contains information on Zimbabwe on pages 1816-1835.
Industry & Commerce of Zimbabwe Rhodesia 1979. Thom's Commercial Publications (Pvt) Ltd, PO Box BW 451, Borrowdale, Salisbury.
Economic Survey of Zimbabwe. Annually. Ministry of Finance, Salisbury.
Monthly Digest of Statistics. Central Statistical Office, Salisbury.

Communications

Air: Air Zimbabwe's internal network covers most of the main business and holiday centres daily. Between Salisbury and Bulawayo there are three flights daily each way.

Rail: The National Railways of Zimbabwe links the main centres and connects with the rail systems of South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique and Zambia.
Road: There are about 4,100km of inter-city and later territorial roads of full width macadam surface.

Trade

Imports: Apart from petroleum and allied the principal commodity groups are machinery and transport equipment, chemicals, steel plates and sheets, and textile piecegoods. There is little provision in the import licensing system for consumer goods.
Exports: The principal commodities are gold, asbestos, copper, nickel, tin, ferro-alloys, ingots and billets, bar and rod sections and wire. Other exports of growing importance are non-electrical machinery and parts, radio and television sets and components, textile yarns and fabrics, leather goods, clothing and accessories, footwear, wooden products, furniture, paper manufactures, travel goods, sanitary and light fittings and jewellery.

Diplomatic missions

London
High Commissioner: HE Mr R. T. Zwiniora
Deputy High Commissioner: Mr Phibbion John Shoniwa
Address: High Commission for the Republic of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe House, 429 Strand, London WC2R 0SA
Telephone: 01-436 7755

Zimbabwe
High Commissioner: R. A. C. Byatt CMG
Counsellor (Commercial/Economic): J. M. Elam
Address: The British High Commission, 7th Floor, Stanley House, Stanley Avenue, Salisbury.
Tel: 4607 a/b RH
Telephone: Salisbury 793781

Zimbabwe is now firmly set on the road to progress and prosperity—due to the diligence with which the Government has implemented its various programmes and also to the generosity of those countries which have offered material and moral aid

THE CORNERSTONE around which this success story is being woven is the three, "Re" propounded by the Prime Minister, Mr Robert Mugabe — reconstruction, rehabilitation and reconciliation.

Zimbabwe's reconstruction plans have three major objectives: to rebuild the destruction caused by the war, to provide adequate accommodation for the increasing population and to cater for the leisure time and work requirements (nationally and internationally) of a developing country.

A Z\$942m five-year Government plan to overcome the housing shortage has been drawn up — an urgent necessity as the national backlog has been assessed at 60,000 units. Also about 100,000 existing houses throughout the country require electrification at an estimated cost of \$30m over the five year period. The programme is ambitious but the careful planning which has gone into it is ensuring success. For instance, the plan involves the construction of 167,000 houses at a cost of \$771.5m and in addition to this, the Government intends to provide funds for home owners who wish to extend the low cost "core" houses. These are houses on to which can be added extra rooms and facilities as a unit.

However, all the development will not be in the domestic sphere. As a booming tourist and conference centre, Zimbabwe needs extra facilities to accommodate the influx of visitors. To this end, the Government is to participate in two major hotel and conference centre schemes in Salisbury. One of the schemes is to be for a 700 bedroom five-star hotel plus conference centre to seat 5,000 people — as well as ancillary services.

On the rehabilitation side the tasks are being dealt with just as enthusiastically — the task of resettling and rehabilitating a displaced population and reconstructing a war-torn economy. As part of the post-war recovery programme, refugees within the country have been returned to their homes from 29 of the so-called "protected villages" and various squatter camps. One of the more rewarding aspects of the programme was the return of 17,000 refugee children from Mozambique and Zambia to holding camps within this country and thence to their families.

The Government has been tackling the mammoth task of rebuilding the country with energy and enthusiasm, but with the advent of the independence it was realized that assistance from the international community would be needed to get the programme off the ground. To this end, ZIMCORD (Zimbabwe Conference on Reconstruction and Development) was convened in March 1981. Essentially there were five areas in which the international community was urged to aid Zimbabwe:

- (1) Land settlement and rural development;
- (2) Repair and reconstruction of war damage;
- (3) Resettlement of war refugees and war displaced people;
- (4) Training and rehabilitation of former combatants;
- (5) Technical co-operation.

During the Conference more than 70 delegations comprising 287 members deliberated on these points. It was hoped by the Government that a figure of \$1.2 billion would eventually be reached — however, once all aid — pre and post Conference — was totalled the figure realised was a mammoth \$1.28 billion.

Much of the driving force behind Zimbabwe's three 'R' concept is amply summed up in a policy statement made by the Minister of Economic Planning and Development, Dr Bernard Chidzero: "Government is determined to forge ahead with the task of building a progressive, non-racial and egalitarian society which draws on the energies and abilities of all its peoples, without regard for their race, colour or creed." This is exemplified by some of the statistics arising out of the programme:

- a) The Government has settled most of the war refugees already and to them and other refugees has provided food, shelter, land and a basic means of sustenance for the initial year of independence;
- b) The Government is planning a programme aimed at the acquisition of two million hectares of commercial farming land over a three year period for dryland resettlement;
- c) Low-interest, medium and short term credit schemes are being planned;
- d) Thousands of boreholes — essential in many areas of the country — have been brought back to use;
- e) Already, 20 villages in the communal lands have had pumping plants installed to supply reticulated water.
- f) A nationwide programme to rehabilitate former combatants who wish to return to civilian life has been launched. Each soldier wanting and allowed to demobilise will be paid a wage by the Government equating with the standard of living he was used to while in the National Army. This will be paid over two years while he or she is becoming established. The scheme also includes educational and vocational training.

The last of the three 'Rs' — reconciliation — has few statistics to present. Reconciliation is a state of mind rather than of fact. But from the successful integration of the armed forces to the relaxed social atmosphere throughout Zimbabwe, it is becoming increasingly obvious that the adoration by Mr Mugabe to work together to make a success of the fledgling state has had a marked effect on all sections of the community.

One of the more nebulous industries in Zimbabwe is that of tourism — also, to some, one of low priority. Bearing in mind the attention which has to be paid to the large proportion of non-tourist orientated Zimbabweans, this industry might well seem a strange bedfellow for the mundanities of tilling the soil or putting an extra bedroom on a dwelling. But this is not so. The foreign earnings from this industry are considerable and are an integral part of national economics.

Tourism's recovery from wartime stagnation has been remarkable. In 1980, income amounted to \$23 million. The target for this year is \$45 million and, by 1986 it is anticipated that one million tourists will bring in \$60 million. Confidence in both the country and the industry is evidenced by the decision of an hotel group to invest \$7.5 million in renovation and expansion programmes.

From the nebulous to the ultra-pragmatic — mining. Endowed with a large variety of minerals, Zimbabwe has proven an irresistible magnet for world investment.

Mining is on the up-and-up. During 1980, more than 5,000 ordinary prospecting licences were issued compared with slightly more than 1,000 in 1979. Since independence, 44 exclusive prospecting orders have been granted compared with 22 in 1979 and

6 in 1978. These exploration and prospecting activities will expand the country's mineral information base and it is hoped that they will result in the discovery of strategic mineral deposits such as uranium.

As many countries have found, a viable environment for investment in mining exists in Zimbabwe. In contrast to many other countries, the acquisition of prospecting and mining rights under existing mining laws are straightforward and are, in themselves an inducement to outside investors who wish to examine and exploit the country's mineral wealth.

But industry needs power. And the high increase in the demand for it will be provided by two sources. Electrical power will be catered for by the construction of a \$900 million thermal power station at Wankie; the fuel requirements by expansion of ethanol production. In the longer term, Zimbabwe's high sunshine ratio could lead to the viable harnessing of solar energy.

The Electricity Supply Commission's new coal-fired power station scheduled to come into operation in 1983, is vital in ensuring that the country is self sufficient.

On the fuel aspect, the first ethanol plant in the country costing \$4 million, was opened in September last year by the Prime Minister. Initial scepticism quickly evaporated as motorists found no complaint with the fuel blend of petroleum and ethanol. Interest in a second plant was expressed by a British company, Dashwood Finance Company Ltd, in June this year. The entire project is to cost US\$1,500 million to be completed over a five-year period. The first stage, costing US\$300 million would be the biggest project by a single private company since Zimbabwe gained independence. Transport too, has had a boom. Air Zimbabwe, the national airline, has had its facilities increased by a further three Boeing 707s and links have been opened with London, Frankfurt and Nairobi. Other connections are in the pipeline, including a third European centre.

But the internal structure of the system of transport is just as important. The National Railways of Zimbabwe are a vital link; not only with neighbouring countries but within the nation. A milestone in the scheme to improve efficiency and to cater for anticipated requirements was reached in September of this year when work was begun on construction for electrifications of the Salisbury-Gwelo line.

It marked the culmination of two decades of effort and planning. The contract involves 475, single-track kilometres to be electrified. The contract was awarded to a British firm.

The NRZ's current capital budget and development programme over the next six years, envisages expenditure of about Z\$332.5 million of which Z\$216.7 million is to cover stages one and two of the main line electrification programme. This includes the cost of locomotives.

The picture is incomplete. There are areas of endeavour in the nation's re-building programme which have not been explored. But the general picture emerges — that of a nation which has the potential and the wherewithal, both materially and within the population to work together, to produce the environment for effort, individual and collective; national and international.

The ground in Zimbabwe is fallow. All it needs is the tilling, sowing and reaping to prove it is the fastest growing and most progressive on the continent.

Coming to terms with independence is proving a hard and tortuous process. Michael Hornsby investigates reactions among the white population and Gillian Gunn assesses the price that former guerrillas are having to pay in adjusting to a life without war

Staying on under black rule

Mr Alfred Knottenbelt, a retired white schoolmaster, is one of those who are "staying on". He fully intends, he says, "to die in Zimbabwe, though not just yet". Few of his white compatriots are ready to make that commitment, even if most of them, much as they grumble and groan, still seem prepared to give life, if not death, a go under black rule.

As a former headmaster of Fletcher High School, Ingwele, for a time one of only two schools in the country offering blacks a sixth-form education, Mr Knottenbelt knows the new rulers as few whites do. Many of them passed through his hands as pupils, and he reminisces about his former charges with genuine pride and affection.

Many of his fellow whites, he believes, "simply cannot come to terms with the fact that for years they have been living in absolute clover at the expense of the great mass of the people, and that a fairer sharing of the spoils is bound to mean some sacrifices by them".

The truth of that judgment, it would seem, is the steady though not yet disastrous, drain of whites leaving the country, and the seeping-away of valuable managerial, technical and artisan skills that Zimbabwe can ill afford to lose. It is a haemorrhage that, unless staunch, could seriously impede economic recovery and growth. It has already forced the Govern-

ment to go back on a pledge not to employ expatriate skills.

As the table accompanying this article shows, the flow is not all one way (indeed Zimbabwe has actually gained more doctors and surgeons than it has lost since independence). But the drain is serious given that blacks trained for jobs previously done by whites will not be emerging in any numbers for several years.

The loss of engineering and mechanical skills is particularly worrying. A shortage of white technical staff is now generally admitted to have contributed at least as much as the withdrawal of locomotives on loan from South Africa to the railways' inability to cope with the country's bumper maize crop last year.

After reaching a peak of 275,000 in 1975, the white population fell steadily to about 225,000 (against 7 million blacks) by the signing of the Lancaster House agreement at the end of 1979. On official figures, it is now down to below 190,000 and still falling, as whites go "down south" — to South Africa.

The average outflow in the first 11 months of last year was about 1,700, higher than at any time during the war and sharply up on 1980, despite a limit of about £750 on the foreign currency emigrants can take out of the country and a rule that any household goods exported



Street scene in Zimbabwe: equal now, but miles apart.

must be at least four years old.

In the face of such disincentives to leave, it is puzzling to know what has happened to cause those whites who initially opted to stay to change their minds. Possibly the first overreaction to discovering Mr Mugabe was not the terrorist ogre he had been painted as, but the realization that there would be no changes at all.

Not that, on the surface, daily life has changed all that much for most whites. It is still the same familiar round of sun, sport and work they have always known. Television and the newspapers may be full of the doings of "Comrade Mugabe", and liberally sprinkled with references to "racist" South Africa, but in a sense one lot of government propaganda has merely replaced another.

Businessmen fuss about the direction of the economy, the inflationary effects of the latest round of minimum wage rises, the freeze on upper-bracket salaries and new regulations which prohibit the dismissal of employees without written permission from a government minister. But few of them are yet ready to give up.

As for the 5,000 white farmers, they are positively thriving after a record crop last year. To be sure, there is

grumbling about squatters, and concern about the future pace and scope of land redistribution, which has scarcely touched them yet. But Mr Jim Sinclair, the president of the predominantly white Commercial Farmers' Union, is able to report 200 more farmers on his books now than at independence.

Many farming families go back several generations, whereas most whites were not born in Zimbabwe, large numbers of them arriving only after the Second World War, and have put down only shallow roots. As the part of the civilian population most exposed to threat to life and limb during the guerrilla war, farmers and their families also appreciate the benefits of peace more keenly.

Most discontent is to be found in the ranks of the civil service which is steadily being "Africanized". Some 60 per cent white before independence, it is now more than 60 per cent black. At the top level, from heads of department up to permanent secretaries, where only one black face was formerly to be seen, the balance is now nearly half and half.

Many whites, as they have seen their career prospects diminish and blacks they consider less qualified promoted above them, have

accepted early retirement, moved to the private sector or emigrated.

The 3,000 whites in the old Rhodesian army of less than 15,000 men have dwindled to no more than 1,000 in the new Zimbabwean force of 60,000, composed mainly of former Zaire and Zippa guerrillas. But there are still about 300 white officers, and when Lieut-General Peter Walls was sacked last July after falling out with the Prime Minister, another white, Major-General Sandy Maclean, was appointed to succeed him as commander of combined operations.

Free primary schooling and medical care and the racial integration of schools and hospitals have inevitably meant some lowering of standards previously enjoyed by whites. The ratio of teachers to pupils has worsened (the school population having jumped from 800,000 to more than 1,800,000), and there is worry about an "Africanized" syllabus.

Wealthy whites, however, can still send their children to expensive private schools with pukka-sounding British names like St George's, Plumtree, Arundel and Peterhouse.

Politically, most whites now seem resigned to their political irrelevance. Mr Ian Smith and his 20 Republican

(formerly Rhodesian Front) MPs in their "reserved" seats (safe only until 1987) no longer inspire much enthusiasm. But the breakaway Democratic Party (DP) of Mr Andre Holland, a white farmer who advocates cooperation with the Government, inspires even less, and has twice been heavily defeated by the RF in low-poll by-elections.

Government-white relations have not been improved by the detention without trial of 14 whites, among them Mr Wally Stuttaford, the elderly RF MP for Bulawayo South, who is alleged to have been plotting to overthrow the Government with malcontents among Mr Joshua Nkomo's former guerrillas. No concrete charges have yet been laid against Mr Stuttaford, whose claims to have been tortured by his captors have been supported by medical evidence.

The escape from prison to South Africa with the aid of a white policeman, of an army bomb disposal expert arrested on suspicion of spying for Pretoria has also rekindled doubts about the loyalty of whites to Zimbabwe. A measure of the Government's sensitivity was the deportation of a 21-year-old white garage mechanic accused of drawing beads and horns on posters of Mr Mugabe and President Caxiano Namana.

No market for guerrilla skills

Any visitor to Zimbabwe eventually notices them: the young black amputees gliding along Salisbury's sidewalks in wheelchairs, the crutches that dot Mugabe's political rallies. They represent the price Zimbabwe paid for independence: 15,000 disabled ex-guerrillas.

Zimbabwe's Department of Social Services has launched an ambitious programme to help such war victims, but the task is massive. Jairo Mutambikwa, Director of Social Services, explains: "Many who lost limbs in the bush went for months without medical care and the problem of physical repair is huge. The average age is 23, and typically they joined the guerrillas in their early teens. Thus they have few skills and finding a job can be very difficult."

The disabled ex-guerrillas also face emotional and social problems. "Some come well," says Mr Mutambikwa. They have lost a limb, but they feel proud of their contribution. Others see former schoolmates who didn't fight enjoying good jobs and they despair. They say: "I sacrificed and was rewarded."

Both men and women ex-guerrillas furthermore have difficulty relating to the opposite sex. They were caught up in the war at or just before puberty and have no spouse to return to. Disabled men report problems finding wives, but female guerrillas appear to face even greater hurdles. "They often acquired assertive personalities in the war," says Mrs Rudo Nyamusiwa, whose private nursing Centre half-way house has helped mentally disturbed ex-guerrillas adjust to civilian life. "Many Zimbabwe men find this unattractive."

And both men and women sometimes have difficulty coping with elementary social tasks. "Because of their background they have no experience in operating as individuals in an urban society," said rehabilitation controller Michael Davies recently in an interview with a London paper. "During the war decisions were made for them and they have no idea how to handle things like money."

To help the disabled ex-guerrillas the Government is building a National Rehabilitation Centre at Ruwa, 40km outside Salisbury. When completed in 1983 it will care for 400 patients at a time. Already Ruwa Centre and clinics in Umtali and Beatrice are treating 700 ex-guerrillas.

Medical repair of the most gruesome cases preoccupies the authorities initially, but now the programme is also providing general rehabilitation.

Vocational training is particularly emphasized. Guerrilla skills no longer find a market in peacetime Zimbabwe, and many ex-combatants have little else to offer. So far the programme has placed 200 men in mainly industrial jobs. A meeting was held with businessmen recently to appeal for extra consideration for disabled ex-guerrillas, and met with an excellent response.

But women ex-guerrillas have more problems than their male counterparts when it comes to job hunting. "There are limited fields in which they can work," says Mr Mutambikwa. "Generally they are given only secretarial training." The women then have to compete with experienced secretaries, often unsuccessfully.

In addition to the vocational training ex-combatants are also given help in acquiring civilian-style social skills. Social workers assist in solving the day-to-day problems guerrillas did not have to deal with.

But one area has received little official attention — that of emotional maladjustment. "The authorities are oriented towards physical rehabilitation with few resources devoted to psychological problems," says Mrs Nyamusiwa.

An American psychiatrist working in Salisbury says ex-combatants actually experienced surprisingly little psychological trauma, and that those who did are hard to treat by Western analysis. "The culture does not encourage talking about inner feelings," he says.

The rehabilitation programme supervisors nonetheless hope soon to include more emphasis on emotional and mental health.

The Government expects that all Zimbabwe's disabled ex-combatants will have finished rehabilitation by 1987. In the meantime, and indeed indefinitely if necessary, the ex-guerrillas will receive state pensions in proportion to the degree of their disability. The Government will also pay for schooling all the way through university. Ex-combatants in general have been found to be above average in intelligence, and some ambitious ones have already enrolled in medical studies.

January 1, 1980 to November 30, 1981

Skill	Emigrants	Immigrants	Net loss
Engineers	413	322	91
Engineering Technicians	158	53	105
Mechanical Engineers	800	332	468
Accountants and Auditors	297	148	151
Administrative and Managerial	324	482	452
Chemical	3,157	804	2,353
Miners and Quarrymen	128	24	104
Aircraft Workers	84	23	71
Motor Mechanics	370	123	247
Electricians	373	234	139
Construction Workers	185	12	173
Print Workers	101	51	50
Nurses and Midwives	487	169	318
Production Supervisors, General Foremen	290	83	147
Teachers	491	324	157
Draughtsmen	82	49	33

Source: Monthly Migration and Travel Statistics for November, 1981, Central Statistical Office, Salisbury. Those leaving are presumed to be whites.

Working with Zimbabwe for future growth

Turner & Newall's commitment to the growth of Zimbabwe is well known and well proven. A continuous programme of investment in the expansion of existing facilities and the development of new ones is evidence enough of our deep involvement in the fortunes of this vigorous country, and our determination to help improve its people's well-being.

What does Turner & Newall add up to in Zimbabwe?

13,000 employees for a start. Our two main asbestos mining centres at Shabanie and Mashaba, together with our interests in gold mining ventures and consulting facilities covering all aspects of mining.

Our principal manufacturing facilities in Salisbury and Bulawayo.

Our naturally acquired strength through diversification... stemming from our experience in obtaining and processing raw materials as well as producing many manufactured goods.

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The large reserves of chrysotile asbestos, comprising some of the finest spinning grades of

fibre for asbestos textiles in the world. Premium grade asbestos for the reinforcement of cement sheet and pipes.

We manufacture building sheets, pipes and moulded goods, and a range of building chemicals and sealants.

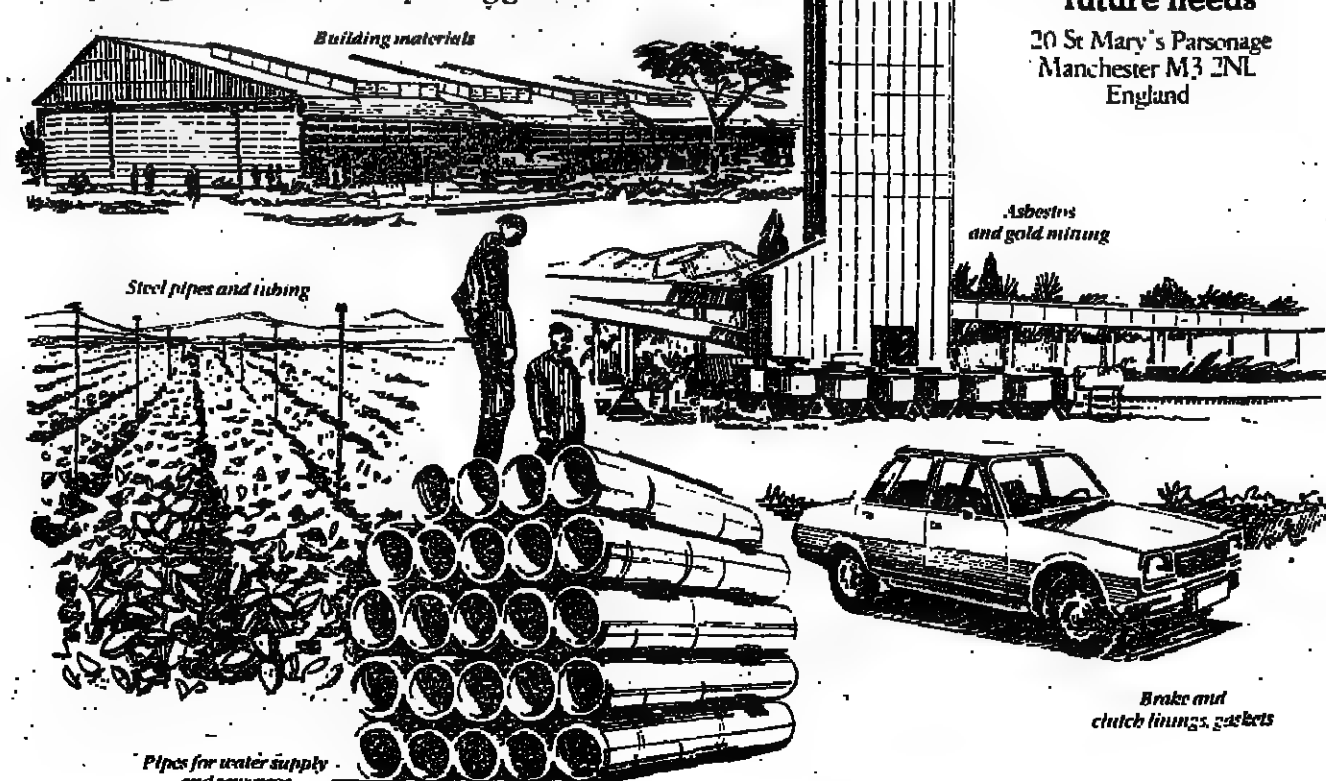
We have diversified into the production of drum brake linings, disc brake pads, clutch facings, gaskets and accessories for the motor industry.

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Providing for growth and a better life for Zimbabweans through the diversity of our operations and the opportunities that creates. The openings are unlimited in Zimbabwe, and for the export of Turner & Newall products to the whole world.

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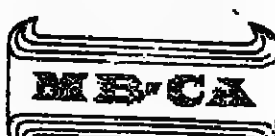


From Livingstone House we can see the world.

We take the view that international investment requires international expertise and if you're considering our part of the world, Zimbabwe, come and see us.

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Special Placements made by First Choice - Merc.
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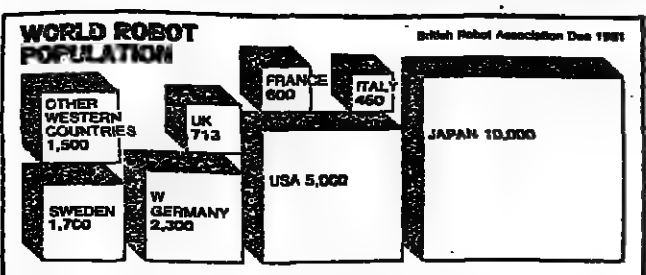


P.O. BOX 3288, LIVINGSTONE HOUSE, SAMORA MACHEL AVE., SALISBURY, ZIMBABWE. TELEPHONE: 783211 TELEX: 4298 24 TELEGRAMS: "MERBANK".

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BUSINESS NEWS

Robot population doubled



Britain's industrial robot population almost doubled last year and now stands at 713, according to the British Robot Association's annual census. That gives the United Kingdom fifth place in the world league—ahead of two European rivals, France (600 robots) and Italy (450). Mr Tom Brock, executive secretary of the association, said: "We will be disappointed if we cannot maintain this growth rate of almost 100 per cent for the next two or three years." The number of industrial robots in Britain should pass 2,000 during 1983.

System X export hopes

System X, the British electronic exchange design, has more export potential in the United States and in Europe than in the Third World as previously believed. The conclusion is contained in a report prepared by Communications Studies and Planning of London on the export potential of the British technology. The report recommends to the government to give the System X inventors the £16m required for adapting the export technology provided that satisfactory arrangements are made to market the product in America.

Optimism over Polish debt

West German banking sources are still optimistic that Poland will be able to pay off the interest that it owes as a condition for signing an agreement rescheduling its 1981 commercial bank debt. It is thought the Poles now owe only \$150m (£81m) in interest and they will be able to pay it off by Monday as promised by Bank Handlowy of Warsaw last month.

Pressure mounts for Opec meeting

Pressure intensified yesterday for an emergency meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries after Iran's second oil price cut in four days. The new official price of Iranian light crude is \$33.55, undercutting the Saudi Arabian benchmark rate by 45 cents. Sheikh Ahmed al Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, who is expected to announce big oil production cuts soon, said an emergency meeting to discuss the erosion of pricing stability was unlikely.

Two French banks, Credit Lyonnais and Paribas, have signed an agreement to lend the Soviet Union \$140m for the construction of the Siberia-Western Europe gas pipeline. Thorne EMI has signed an agreement with ABC Video States to distribute films on Enterprises of the United States in Europe and video cassette in Europe and films throughout the world on video disc worldwide.

MARKET SUMMARY

LONDON EXCHANGE

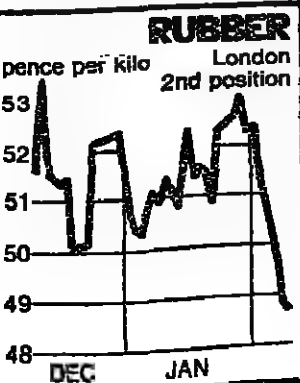
FT Index 563.3 down 7.5
FT 100 64.39 down 0.23
FT All share 324.06 down 3.77
Bargains 19,566

Money supply figures, which were at the high end of expectations, hit the market, with the FT Index down 7.5 to 563.3 at the close after drifting down throughout the day. The growth in money supply of 1.1 per cent, compared with 1 per cent, pushed gilts down 1/2 pence, while losses among leading shares ranging from 2p to 10p.

Among falls, Becham was 4p down at 235p, Glaxo 4p to 470p, Hawker was 10p easier at 325p and Lucas at 21p down 5p. Building and property group Wood Hall Trust leap 40p to 205p as brokers fled. Newsom's stock staged a sharp rise on a bid on behalf of an unnamed buyer, possibly the Australian Elder Smith Goldsbrough Mort Group, prepared to pay 200p per share for a 10 per cent stake which it aimed to achieve, before the price rose below 200p. United Scientific jumped 20p to 635p after its annual report, but slipped back to 613p. Favourable trading statements were not enough to support Crest Nicholson.

COMMODITIES

Rubber prices weakened again on the London terminal market yesterday, reaching their lowest for the contract. March closed 35p down at 47.55p a kilogramme, and April fell 25p to 48.65p a kilogramme. Spot prices have also been softer. A spokesman for the Rubber Trade Association of London said that RSS 1 was 45.46p a kilogramme on Monday, the lowest for four years. The International Rubber Organization buffer stock manager bought March rubber, traders said. The cash price fell by 53p a tonne to £8,952, while three months gained £17 to £9,002. Dealers said that £9,000 a tonne is still being offered for the critical delivery dates in the middle of this month.



OTHER EXCHANGES

Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,292.47 down 29.92
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,794.19 up 9.30

CURRENCIES

Firm Eurodollar rates boosted the dollar, while a worse-than-expected United Kingdom money supply figures hit the pound.

LONDON CLOSE

STERLING 1.8425 down 195 points
Index 9.5 down 0.4
DM 4.3775
Fr 11.1050
Yen 435.50
DOLLAR Index 112.4 up 0.7
DM 2.3752 up 17.9pts
GOLD \$378.00 down 75 cents

MONEY MARKETS

Period rates were slightly firmer. The Bank relieved a shortage of £300m at unchanged rates.
Domestic rates:
Base rates 14%
3-month interbank 14%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 16 1/2-16 3/4
3 month DM 10 1/2-10 3/4
3 month Fr 15 1/2-15 3/4

Carr Sebag sells off Far East interests

By Philip Robinson

One of the biggest stock-broking mergers of recent years, between W I Carr and Joseph Sebag, in 1979 was split apart yesterday when Carr Sebag decided to sell the lucrative Far Eastern business built up by Carr to Exco International, the money brokers.

Carr's problems have highlighted the pressing need for more capital in stockbroking firms. The Stock Exchange is at present involved in a detailed study on how member firms are financed.

Partners of Carr Sebag, which has been the subject of rumours of liquidity problems for almost six weeks, will be paid a total of £4.5m for 75 per cent of W I Carr, Son & Co (Overseas) (Wico).

It is the first time an outsider has bought a stock-broking business from a member of the Stock Exchange and Exco is paying £3m cash to the partners, who are then entitled to 70 per cent of the pretax profits of Wico for the year to March 1982.

Profits last year were £1.25m and, given the purchase price, the City estimates that this year's profits will exceed £2m. Completion of the deal, which is subject to Exco shareholders' approval is expected on April 1.

But how much of the purchase price goes back into the Carr Sebag business remains to be seen. The £3m is being paid to partners half of whom are Wico and half, Carr Sebag.

The Carr Sebag partners will effectively have £1.5m which they can put into the firm.

Mr Sandy Gilmore, senior partner of Carr Sebag, when its new capital base is declared on April 15.

The capital base from which stockbrokers work has been the subject of much concern recently. The Stock Exchange's study on capitalization and funding of member firms, is understood to be far from complete.

However, brokers are considering raising the level, which outside shareholders can take share stakes in limited partnerships from 10 per cent to 30 per cent.

The Stock Exchange has never been happy with shareholders, who have limited liability owning a large interest in firms whose partners have unlimited liability.

Meanwhile Exco, which became a public company less than three months ago, plans to inject further £500,000 of working capital into Wico and

develop it into an international stockbroking business. Through Wico, Exco will acquire offices throughout the Far East and North America and intends to set up in Australia and Singapore. It is fast emerging as a UK-based financial "supermarket".

Exco also has an option to buy out the remaining 25 per cent of Wico after 1984. That stake is split between senior executives and staff based in Hongkong which include Mr Edgar Fowler, who started Carr's Far Eastern business and will be joint managing director in the colony.

Mr Philip Rimell will be joint managing director in London. Both will report to Mr Richard Bradley, the new chairman, a director of Exco who resigned on Monday as number two at Save and Prosper, the unit trust group, and was a partner in W I Carr until the merger.

Mr Bradley negotiated the Wico deal after two months' research for Exco on how the group could get into stock-

The money brokers entered the ring about four weeks ago, after Carr Sebag failed to put together a deal which would have involved an institution taking a big stake in the entire firm.

The banks were ruled out because of the possible conflict of interest. The Exco deal was agreed on Monday night. Links between Carr Sebag's large private client business and Wico, which provided most of the London profits, will be maintained.

Cheaper electricity plea fails

By Clive Cookson, Technology Correspondent

The Electricity Council is not prepared to make any fundamental changes in the way large industrial users are charged for their electricity.

The council's review of the bulk supply tariff for industry was made public yesterday on the orders of Mr Nigel Lawson, the Secretary of State for Energy, in falls far short of the concessions demanded by heavy industry, notably steel producers, who have been complaining that they have to pay up to 30 per cent more than some continental competitors.

The biggest concession is that the council is prepared to revise its category C of consumers who are supplied with cheaper electricity if they are prepared to accept reductions in supply at short notice.

The category would be replaced by a new concept of "load management consumer" which, the review says, "requires further development in detail". However, the council makes clear that these favoured customers would still have to satisfy stringent conditions.

The review also proposes a number of minor concessions

in the general bulk supply tariff, by altering the peak, standard and night rates.

The council does not say how much industrial users might save by taking full advantage of the changes, but the figure seems unlikely to be more than 3 or 4 per cent.

A spokesman for the Department of Energy said the Government had made the public so that industrial consumers could make comparisons before the 1982-83 tariffs were implemented. "We are also discussing the proposals with the electricity supply industry as a matter of urgency," he added.

Mr Bryan Rigby, deputy director general of the confederation of British Industry, said last night that he had not yet seen the review. However, he added: "It is still open to the Government to extend help to large consumers, but this will clearly have to be achieved by special arrangements rather than changes to the bulk supply tariff."

The review, which was prepared by an Electricity Council

task force in consultation with the Central Electricity Generating Board, considers and rejects some of the more fundamental changes in the bulk supply tariff that have been suggested by industrial groups. For example, a "plant-type" structure, which would give preferential pricing to high load factor supplies, is criticised for being "complex and difficult to formulate".

A system based on short-run marginal costs, rather than the long-run marginal costs of the present tariff, would produce substantial savings for large industrial consumers. But it would cost the electricity supply industry 10 per cent of its revenues and, the review says, "the industry could not countenance planning for such losses, not least in view of the requirement that the CEBG should 'at least break even taking one year with another'."

A report by the National Economic Development Council, which was published last November, showed that although most industrial users in Britain enjoyed electricity prices broadly comparable

Malaysia cuts tin production

Malaysia yesterday announced that it would cut tin production by 25 per cent to try to sell tin directly to consumers, by-passing the London Metal Exchange, thereby raising the stakes in the battle being fought in the market.

Daruk Sri Mahabharat, the Malaysian prime minister, said that his country would reduce its tin production by 15,000 tonnes a year. Malaysia's tin output last year was 69,488 tonnes. The cut is equivalent to 8.9 per cent of export earnings.

Market sources in London saw the move as an attempt to underpin the record prices which mystery buyers—believed to be tin producers—have engineered on the LME.

Cash tin was £8,952 a tonne yesterday, a backwardation of £950.

Daruk Sri Mahabharat confirmed that tin producers are planning marketing organisation similar to that formed by rubber producers, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and Bolivia are likely to join such a pact. These countries control about two-thirds of world production. The 180,000 tonnes of tin a year.

Private borrowing jumps by £1,500m

By John Whitmore

Latest figures for State borrowing continue to suggest that the Government is well on course to meet its borrowing targets in the present financial year.

But the strength of bank lending to the private sector is still making it difficult for the authorities to get the money supply firmly under control.

In the banking month to last January ending M3, the broad measure of banking money, grew by an estimated 14 1/2 per cent, according to the Bank of England, his follows a rise of only 0.2 per cent in the short December banking month.

The latest increase seems to have been largely fuelled by a further big increase in private sector credit demand. The London clearing banks estimate that their lending to the private sector over the six-week period showed an underlying rise of £1,500m.

In part this may have reflected the fact that the rate of interest rates at the end of the month led borrowers to make greater use of

their overdraft facilities rather than money market loans.

But even if private sector lending by other banks was less than buoyant, final figures for the system as a whole are likely to point to an unexpected increase in total credit demand thanks to further sizeable purchases of commercial bills by the Bank of England. The seasonally adjusted figure for lending to the private sector could, on some estimates, come out at about £1,750m.

Rising dollar interest rates spurred on the dollar in active and sometimes hectic currency trading yesterday. It closed in London below its best levels, but still 1 1/2 pence up on the day at a five-month high of DM2.3752.

The pound fell back sharply, not only against the dollar but also against Continental currencies after a strong beginning.

Disappointing money supply figures fuelled the drop, which was sparked off by commercial selling during the morning.

Sterling finished London trading at \$1.8425, the lowest for more than three months.

Business Editor, page 15



RHM closes four bakeries

By Rupert Morris

Ranks Hovis MacDougall is to close four bakeries making 680 redundant and raising fears of further cutbacks in response to overcapacity and a continuing decline in bread consumption.

Two hundred will lose their jobs at RHM's Portsmouth bakery, formerly Smith and Vospers; 192 will be made redundant at the Mother's Pride bakery at Oxford, 240 at the Mother's Pride bakery at Glasgow, and 240 at a bakery at Coatbridge, near Glasgow.

A further 388 employees will be re-employed elsewhere within the group, and bread production will be switched to Bristol, Greenford, Cheltenham and Leighton Buzzard.

The Bakers, Food and Allied Workers' Union, which meets the company tomorrow, was more dismayed than shocked at the closures.

"There is a serious problem," Mr Paul Sainsbury, regional officer, said. "There were seven bakery closures last year, and I would not be surprised if there were a few more this year."

Bread consumption has been declining for many years, and the Bakers' Federation said yesterday that although there

had been some recovery in the past two years, the overall trend was still downwards.

At the same time, people are showing much greater interest in brown bread and varieties sold in the Breads Shops "supermarkets" in house bakeries.

RHM said yesterday the closures were necessary because of "significant losses" at the four plants, where the machinery was outdated, and new investment could not be justified.

The company, which supplies just under 30 per cent of Britain's bread, made a healthy £45m profit last year, but that was thanks to the grocery and cake side of the business. Bread profits were well down on the previous year.

The growing trend among the leading supermarket chains to make their own bread on the premises was an important factor in the decline, RHM said.

Sainsbury said that it had no evidence that it was ordering less bread from the big bakers. But like Tesco, Waitrose and other chains, Sainsbury is planning to extend its in-house bakeries from the

present figure of 60 among its 218 supermarkets in England and Wales.

Many in the industry believe that Britain's bread makers could be heading for a crisis similar to that of 1978, which saw the demise of Spillers' bread-making operation.

The market is now dominated by Associated British Foods, makers of Sunblest, and RHM, makers of Mother's Pride and Hovis. Together they account for 60 per cent of bread production.

But consumers' preference for home-made bread, and the inability of factories with old machinery to adapt to new demand for different types of loaves, makes Associated's and RHM's position daily less secure.

"RHM said yesterday: 'These closures are part of a continuing process of concentration in the industry. Twenty years ago we had well over 100 bakeries. Today we have 60.'"

Although the company would not comment on the possibility of further closures, many of the 60 remaining bakeries use machinery which is similarly outdated.

Hamro Life upsets unit trust

Hamro Life's top salesmen are to be allowed to sell unit trusts to individual investors in a move which many will regard as circumventing the present tight restrictions on offering units to the public door to door.

Last year Allied Hamro, which has more than £400m of unit trust funds under management, merged with Hamro Life, which has a sales force of about 4,000 selling life insurance to the public.

Now 800 specially trained salesmen will be able to sell unit trusts to life insurance customers if the clients ask, the company says.

But Mr Paul Jennings, of rival unit trust group M&G, which also has an insurance arm, said: "I feel it is the wrong way to sell units, although it does open up a large new avenue on the marketing side."

And Mr Tim Miller, director of the Framlington group of unit trusts, said it was a "most unfortunate" development, adding: "I think it will be very difficult to police life insurance salesmen who now find themselves able to sell units."

Hamro Life has cleared its move with the Department of Trade and the Insurance Commission, and may only sell units at a second meeting requested by the customer. He is not allowed to suggest the idea in the first place.

Mr Syd Lipworth, a director of Hamro Life, said: "We have established very strict controls on our salesmen."

Mr Mark St. Giles, managing director of Allied Hamro and chairman of the Unit Trust Association, said that other groups would follow the lead.

US rejects early deal on steel dumping cases

From Bailey Morris, Washington, Feb 9

The Reagan Administration has decided against an early settlement of steel dumping cases presently dividing the United States and Europe, preferring instead to await the legal outcome of about 100 complaints.

Mr William Brock, the United States trade representative, said today that even though American companies have been pressing the administration to settle the cases by negotiating country-by-country quotas on steel imports.

European Community representatives, while rejecting the idea of such quotas, indicated their willingness to negotiate

mission and the Commerce Department of complaints filed by American steel companies.

Mr Brock's statement was the clearest indication to date of the American position in the steel controversy which is the focal point of talks in Washington this week between the European Community and the Reagan Administration.

American companies have been pressing the administration to settle the cases by negotiating country-by-country quotas on steel imports.

European Community representatives, while rejecting the idea of such quotas, indicated their willingness to negotiate

THIS NOTICE DOES NOT CONSTITUTE AN OFFER FOR SALE

PARTICULARS OF AN ISSUE OF £750,000,000

13 1/4 per cent EXCHEQUER STOCK, 1987

SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS:

Amount paid on issue	£20.00 per cent
Amount payable on Monday, 8th March 1982	£35.00 per cent
Amount payable on Monday, 5th April 1982	£38.25 per cent
INTEREST PAYABLE HALF-YEARLY ON 22nd JANUARY AND 22nd JULY	

This Stock is an investment falling within Part I of the First Schedule to the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Application has been made to the Council of the Stock Exchange for the Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

The whole of the Stock has been issued to the Bank of England on 26 February 1982 at a price of £25.25 per cent. The amount paid on issue was £20.00 per cent. The amount payable on 8th March 1982 will be £35.00 per cent and the amount payable on 5th April 1982 will be £38.25 per cent.

The principal of and interest on the Stock will be a charge on the National Loans Fund, with recourse to the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom.

The Stock will be repaid at par on 22nd January 1987.

The Stock will be registered at the Bank of England or at the Bank of Ireland, Belfast, and will be transferable, in multiples of one new penny, by instrument in writing in accordance with the Stock Transfer Act 1963. Transfers will be best of stamp duty.

Interest will be payable half-yearly on 22nd January and 22nd July. Interest will be deducted from payments of more than £5 per annum. Interest warrants will be transmitted by post. The first payment will be made on 22nd July 1982 at the rate of £4.7361 per £100 of the Stock.

Payment in full has been made and a completed registration form submitted to the Bank of England, the Stock will be represented by letters of allotment.

Payment in full may be made at any time prior to 10th April 1982 but no discount will be allowed on such payment. Interest may be charged on a day-to-day basis on any overdue amount which may be accepted at a rate equal to the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate for seven day deposits in sterling ("LIBOR") plus 1 per cent per annum. Such rate will be determined by the Bank of England by reference to market quotations, on the due date for the relevant payment, for LIBOR obtained from such sources or sources as the Bank of England may consider appropriate. Default in due payment of any amount in respect of the Stock will render the allotment of such Stock liable to cancellation and any amount previously paid liable to forfeiture.

Letters of allotment may be sent in denominations of multiples of £100 on written request received by the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or by any of the Branches of the Bank of England, on any date not later than 1st April 1982. Such requests must be signed and must be accompanied by the letters of allotment that a letter cannot be split into several allotments.

Letters of allotment must be surrendered for registration, accompanied by a completed registration form, when the final instalment is paid, unless payment in full has been made before the due date, in which case they must be surrendered for registration not later than 5th April 1982.

Until the close of business on 31st June 1982, Stock issued in accordance with this notice will be known as 13 1/4 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1987 ("A"). The interest due on 22nd July 1982 will be paid separately on holdings of the existing 13 1/4 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1987, and on holdings of "A" Stock as at the close of business on 31st June 1982. Consequently, interest received from such sources or sources as the Bank of England may consider appropriate, will be applied to the payment of interest due on 22nd July 1982 on holdings of "A" Stock.

The last date for lodgment at the Bank of England of transfers for registration as "A" Stock will be 15th June 1982. After this date, for purposes of certification, the "A" Stock will not be distinguished from the existing 13 1/4 per cent Exchequer Stock, 1987, from the opening of business on 10th June 1982, the "A" Stock will be distinguished with the existing Stock.

Copies of this notice may be obtained at the Bank of England, New Issues, Watling Street, London, EC4M 9AA, or at any of the Branches of the Bank of England, or at the Glasgow Agency of the Bank of England, 40th Floor, 14 St Vincent Place, Glasgow, G1 2EL or at the Bank of Ireland, 100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, 117, 118, 119, 120, 121, 122, 123, 124, 125, 126, 127, 128, 129, 130, 131, 132, 133, 134, 135, 136, 137, 138, 139, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 145, 146, 147, 148, 149, 150, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 167, 168, 169, 170, 171, 172, 173, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, 205, 206, 207, 208, 209, 210, 211, 212, 213, 214, 215, 216, 217, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 225, 226, 227, 228, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, 236, 237, 238, 239, 240, 241, 242, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248, 249, 250, 251, 252, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, 263, 264, 265, 266, 267, 268, 269, 270, 271, 272, 273, 274, 275, 276, 277, 278, 279, 280, 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

The big loser and likely winners in Laker collapse

Canny Scots fear worst

Charlotte Square's financial outlook tends towards pessimism compared with the Square Mile: "What is the state of the balance sheet?" is the question Edinburgh financiers ask before applying their own judgment.

In the case of Clydesdale Bank, the Midland Bank subsidiary, and its involvement with Laker, Scottish analysts and institutions fear the worst—a full write-off of an estimated £20m in Laker debts in Midland's group accounts which are due on March 19.

Laker's £9m overdraft came from the Clydesdale. Midland is also involved in the \$131m consortium loan for three Airbus. Market opinion puts their net stake at around \$10m.

There is also the question of the £5m bond Clydesdale made available last October to cover the cost of ferrying stranded passengers to their destinations.

More sanguine estimates are that the loss provision will be far less than £20m, and that the London market is not too worried over Midland's heavy involvement with Laker. The issue is how much of



Sir David Barran: £20m write-off feared

the commitment to Laker will have to be written off.

The sensible view seems to be to assume the worst and expect a full write-off. The difficulty may be that in between Laker's request last autumn for re-scheduling of its debts and the start of the final crisis, an unpredictable number of things went wrong.

Midland reportedly has a floating charge on the Laker assets. The questions the City is asking is

where exactly this puts it in the pecking order for repayment, and how much can be realized?

Estimates of Midland's year-end figures vary greatly. Poor fourth quarter results at Crocker, the Midland's United States subsidiary as a result of exceptional bad debt provisions point to a fall in pretax profits from £23.1m to £21.9m, according to brokers James Capel. Wood Mackenzie on the other hand sees a modest increase to £24.0m, and Hoare Govett goes for

Holidays up for grabs

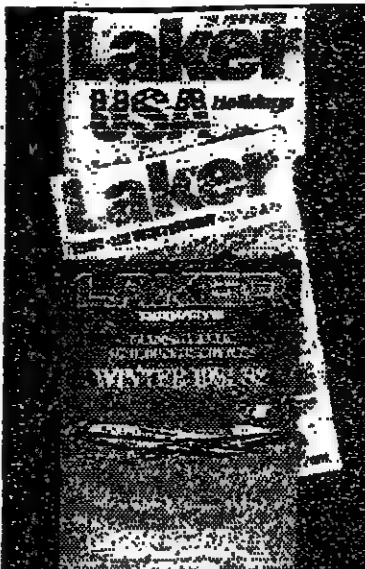
The collapse of Laker Airways has put a potential two hundred thousand would-be holiday makers back on the market, although it is too early to compute exact figures on who will end up conveying them on their quest for the sun. All that can be said is that the investment appraisal of Horizon Travel and Intasun Leisure has become even more favourable.

At Carr Sebag, Mr Roy Owens did a study of the holiday sector before the snow and ice of December caused so many people to book their summer holidays with great alacrity.

At the end of November Horizon Travel shares stood at 27p—now 33p—and Intasun Leisure were at 25p—now 10p. These two are the only travel companies with an independent quotation in the sector of the market which included Laker. Others in the sector include Thomson, Global, part of Great Universal Stores, Cosmos, a Swiss group and Saga, which specializes in off-season holidays for over-60s.

"At this stage there are just no exact figures. These holidaymakers will probably end up scattered around the groups. They may have a problem if they all want to go at peak times—there may not be enough spaces for them," Mr Owens said.

The institutions still seem to be a little cautious of the holiday company sector, and the Laker experience has not helped. Apart from the occasional spectacular disaster, the sector is also subject to the up and downs of consumer spending power, and the strength or weakness of sterling. These cyclical disadvantages have left the sector on a relatively low p/e.



actual tax charge and a yield of 2.2 per cent. The date of Horizon's year end means that any benefit from Laker's failure will fall in the period to be reported in nearly 1983—a long time ahead.

At present it is hard to guess figures this financial year at Horizon's without knowing how sterling will perform in 1982, or how the weather or strikes will affect the results. An improvement, however, looks certain.

Intasun is quoted on the unlisted securities market. It is what is described as an entrepreneurial company, with a much shorter stock-market history. But it has a good track record.

The forecast is for about £13.5m for the year to March 1982, which put the company on a p/e of 5.7 per cent on an actual tax charge and a yield of 4.5 per cent.

Malaysia claims its own

While Harrison's and Crossfield may not be at the forefront of Lord Cerrington's thoughts on his present trip to Malaysia, the same is probably not true of his hosts who want to take control of the company (Sally White writes).

With its economy under stress, and raw material prices weak, the Malaysian Government wants to control the country's resources and Permatid, the state company owns only about 8 per cent at present. Other Far Eastern holdings in the company amount to between

INTERNATIONAL



BELGIUM

The Belgian Government is studying plans to save Cockerill Yards—the shipbuilding company declared bankrupt by taking a 49 per cent interest in the company and restructuring it to reduce wage costs.

NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand should cut inflationary policies in order to improve its balance of payments deficit and control inflation, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) said in Paris.

NORWAY

Norway expects to allocate six blocks in the fifth round of concessions for oil exploration north of the 62nd Parallel in the North Sea, due to be

ITALY

French state aid to home and foreign companies investing in depressed regions will rise to FF1,300m (£119m) this year from FF800m (£73m) in 1981, and the ceiling on individual loans will double to FF50,000 (£4,500) for each job created, the regional development agency said in Paris.

JAPAN

Japan's direct overseas investment reached \$5,300m (£2,850m) in the first half of the fiscal year ending in March, already surpassing the record for any single year since 1971. External Trade Organization said.

Japanese private sector machinery orders, excluding ships, are expected to fall 10.4 per cent in the first quarter of 1982, or annually adjusted \$1,534,000 (£1,486m) from \$1,713,000 (£1,660m) in fourth quarter 1981.

SOVIET UNION

The Soviet Union is to increase the number of industrial robots on order, in factories to 100,000 by 1985, the Moscow Press Agency said in Moscow.

UGANDA

West Germany and Uganda have signed a "Financial cooperation agreement" which provides for \$6m (£3.3m) to conduct development studies including one on the rebuilding of the east African nation's pharmaceutical industry.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's gold reserve holdings fell by about 130,000 ounces during January to 9.36 million ounces at the end of the month, according to figures published by the Reserve Bank, the value of the bank's gold holdings dropped from R3,190m (£1,670m) at the end of December to R3,040m (£1,590m) on January 31.

The South African government claims unemployment among the country's blacks is about 7.3 per cent. However, official figures are believed to understate the case—private sector economists think a true figure is between 10 and 20 per cent.

Hongkong

Hongkong's total trade last year amounted to HK\$260,537,000 (£23,700m), a 24 per cent increase over 1980. The colony's top five trading partners were the United States, Japan, China, the United Kingdom and Singapore.

Early "big board" volume

Prices were lower in active trading on the American Stock Exchange.

WALL STREET

New York, Feb 9.—Prices opened lower in active trading on New York Stock Exchange. Analysts expected downward pressure on the market to continue at the outset of trading, but possibly throughout the week.

Some had thought the market was trying to establish a base, but it was not to be. Dow Jones Industrial Average was down by 2.09 points to 831.33 shortly after the market opened.

Declines outnumbered advances

Of 192 advances, the 172 declines crossed the tape.

COMMODITIES

COFFEE: Higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

LEAD

LEAD was steady. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

SILVER

SILVER closed very steady. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

COPPER

COPPER: Higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

ZINC

ZINC: Higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

NICKEL

NICKEL: Higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

TIN

TIN: Higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

CANE SUGAR

CANE SUGAR: Higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

RUBBER

RUBBER: Higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

CLOTH

CLOTH: Higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

WHEAT

WHEAT: Higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

BARLEY

BARLEY: Higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

OATS

OATS: Higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

RYE

RYE: Higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker. Auction—higher grade was weaker.

RIGHTS ISSUES

Oil men hunt for extra cash

Hunting Petroleum Services and Steaua Romana (British), both in the energy business, came to the market yesterday for extra cash. Hunting is seeking an additional £12.5m, while Steaua wants £15.5m.

Three new ordinary shares of 25p and £7 convertible stock for every 10 ordinary or deferred shares already held are offered by Hunting. Steaua's terms are one new ordinary share for every two ordinary shares for every 10 deferred shares.

AARONSON

Profits plunge

The price of maintaining its market share has proved a costly venture for Aaronson Bros, the plastics laminates group, where pretax profits for the full year to September 30 plunged from £1.9m to £44,000.

The company continues to blame fierce competition from its main European rivals which have been able to dump their stock at greatly reduced prices, while benefiting from the high level of sterling. Profits at the half-way stage from £1.4m to £15,000.

Costs have continued to rise, increasing pressure on already eroding margins and forcing up the level of borrowings.

AMSTRAD

Sales double

Amstrad Consumer Electronics, the Tottenham-based hi-fi and electronics group, yesterday announced a substantial increase in pretax profits for the half year to December.

From £1.3m last year, profits rose to £2.8m. Sales more than doubled from £7.5m to £15.5m.

Mr Alan Sugar, chairman of the company, said the increase

DONALD MACPHERSON

Fresh as pain

Donald Macpherson, which supplies to Woolworths with Cover Plus paints, has pushed up its pretax profits by 27 per cent to £2.5m for the year to October in a tough and depressed national market.

Much of the increase comes from a boost in earnings from its overseas companies, export orders and lower interest charges while trading profits from the UK market are down. So pretax profits have been achieved on volume virtually unchanged from 1980. Sales were £10m higher at £90m.

The group's shares fell 5p to 20p on the news of a final dividend held at 3.85p gross, making a total dividend of 6p gross.

However, the results do show

recovery from the half-way stage when profits fell from £2m to £1.2m, although the group says that difficult trading conditions persisted in the second-half. Increased efficiency and overall slimming down—the workforce has been cut by 500—have also helped.

Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica-ENEL

(Italian National Electric Energy Agency)

7 1/4 Per Cent. 15-Year Guaranteed Bonds of 1970

Due March 1, 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, on behalf of Ente Nazionale per l'Energia Elettrica-ENEL, that on March 1, 1982, \$3,000,000 principal amount of its 7 1/4 Per Cent. 15-Year Guaranteed Bonds of 1970 will be redeemed out of moneys to be paid by it to Dillon, Read & Co. Inc., as Principal Paying Agent, pursuant to the mandatory, annual redemption requirement of said Bonds and to the related Authenticating Agency Agreement and Paying Agency Agreement, each dated as of March 1, 1970. The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), as Authenticating Agent, has selected, by lot, for such redemption the Bonds bearing the following serial numbers:

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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

Prudential window dressing

A sky overcast, no glare; visibility of the sort golfers relish; so why was I less than spellbound at the unveiling yesterday of the Prudential's new shop window in the City?

For at its Lime Street branch, hard by the Lloyd's insurance market and the Baltic shipping exchange, the Pru yesterday became the first United Kingdom subscriber to Reuters' financial news service as exhibited on an electronic blackboard. An old Pru hand said: "At least we decided what to do with that damned 'window'."

Another thought the display a change from potted palms and posters advertising sports.

We guests trooped outside and watched dim electronic words pass sedately in front of us from right to left as if it was Arabic. Slowly we deciphered information about gold napoleons. The Reuters man looked at me doubtfully. "Perhaps we should cross the road. We should read it better there. We did. The electronic words became invisible."

The Reuters man came to a decision. Perhaps we had better take off the grill, he said. At this point I left. It took a minute for the 'T' index to come up on the visual display, but perhaps it was better than sport for which, alas, I have a blind spot.

This Sugar is good for you



Alan Sugar — sweet talk

A haughty spirit goes before a fall, the Book says, and if John Bloor, of Rolls Royce, and Sir Freddie Laker had been failing in common it was the over confidence that depends on other people's money.

Alan Sugar, 34, is the man, in City eyes at least, who is Amstrad Consumer Electronics, the hi-fi and car entertainment group which has so far not put a foot wrong.

Who can quibble with doubled profits and a dividend up a fifth? What shareholder will sniff at shares worth three times more than when they were offered for sale less than two years ago?

Sugar tells me: "The two men you mention made one mistake — they borrowed money. I do not owe a penny to anyone. Indeed my company has a lot of cash in the bank." "How," I asked, "do you plan to keep an eye on everything as your group grows bigger?" He replied: "I have a good team."

This businessman has the caniness of one much older. He has, however, to make his first mistake. But it is something that he has not sold a single share, and possibly more that his profits do not lean overmuch on CB Radio. "People got over excited when it came in," he tells me.

"Now they're falling for a lot of nonsense about a big sleep. It is simply steady business."

How I wish he knew who would succeed him if he fell under a bus.



Peter Wainwright

NEW APPOINTMENTS

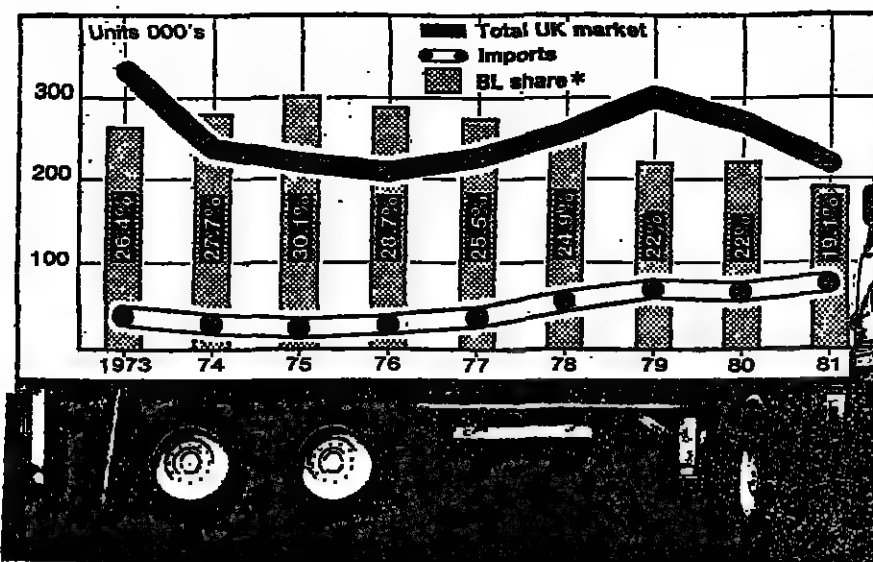
Mr J. H. Carter, Mr R. A. Daws, Mr J. E. Reynolds and Mr F. E. Thorne have been appointed directors of C. T. Bowring Reinsurance.

Mr Alan Bewick has been appointed director of purchasing of Unipart.

Mr R. H. K. Seelig, a director of Morgan Grenfell has been appointed to the board of Morgan Grenfell Incorporated, the wholly-owned American subsidiary company of Morgan Grenfell.

Mr J. R. F. Fairbrother and Mr G. A. Maclean have been appointed as directors and Mr J. E. Hesckett a manager of Baring Brothers.

BL's truck division may be running out of road



Commercial vehicle registrations

* Includes car-derived vans and Land Rovers



Today the BL board meets to thrash out the future of its strike bound trucks division. BL says the subsidiary will have little chance of survival without 4,000 redundancies. Edward Townsend reports.

Once again, just as it seemed as if the millstone of British Leyland was slowly being lifted from the taxpayers' overburdened shoulders, another deepening crisis is threatening the state-owned enterprise.

The Leyland Group, the company's truck and bus section, which traditionally has been more stable than the volatile cars operation, has been paralysed by strike action for nearly three weeks, and with no sign of a settlement, BL has begun to deliver the dire warnings that it has heard all too often before.

Without the 4,100 redundancies and restructuring — the cause of the present dispute — the trucks business has little chance of survival, BL says. The stoppage is said to be threatening the whole future of BL truck-making while overseas customers "must be asking why a proud company with such long traditions can commit hara-kiri."

Today, the BL board meets for the first time since the Leyland crisis erupted and may have to make some harsh decisions about the future size of Leyland and the current extensive model replacement programme.

This was the cloud that hung over Sir Michael Edwards, BL chairman, when he faced more than two hours of Select Committee grilling in the House of Commons recently. He was able to tell MPs that at last things were looking up and a trading profit for 1983 was on the cards, but that the trucks business presented the greatest uncertainty.

It has since become clear that the BL board foresaw at the end of last year that unless some major surgery was performed on Leyland its losses had consumed this year at a rate of £2m a week — the government was likely to rethink its £900m, two-year funding of the BL survival plan.

The bombshell was dropped by Mr David Andrews, BL executive deputy chairman last November. At the Leyland assembly plant, Lancashire, 1,855 jobs were to go, a further 1,350 redundancies at Bathgate, West Lothian, which is to become the company's primary engine facility, 750 at Guy Motors in Wolverhampton which is to be closed, 120 at Albion Motors in Glasgow, and a further 25 administrative jobs.

With almost 19 per cent of the Leyland Group workforce due to be sacked, feelings understandably are running high and heels are being dug in. Only 100 of the Leyland

strikers voted at their last mass meeting against continuing the stoppage and discussions between management and union officials ended in deadlock last week. Formal talks are not to be resumed until next Monday. Leyland workers proud of their truck-making traditions, want new investment, expansion and scrapping of the redundancy plans.

The stalemate could well force the company into a more savage pruning operation. The fear about workers is that BL, which has little, if any, money to spare to finance a prolonged shut down of trucks output, must close factories and turn the business into a mere assembly operation for other firms' components, a move which some claim was BL's intention from the start.

Clear warnings of hard times ahead for the truck workers were contained in BL review of its 1981 performance presented to the Government in December. The greatest problems and worst results lay in the Leyland group, it said, and "massive cost reductions" were necessary for viability.

The revised 1982 plan for trucks, which is now in jeopardy, called for restructuring and redundancies but also stressed BL's intention to manufacture a full range of lorries — from vans to heavy articulated vehicles — in a bid to retain the vital support of the group's UK dealers and the confidence of commercial fleet buyers.

It added that future market demand and sales volumes would be much lower than previously forecast "and the business is too complex and the fixed cost structure too expensive for the resources (management, technical, capital) which in lower scale of business could support."

Even with streamlining, the current dispute probably has quashed any hope that the Leyland group would break even this year. And the cuts could prove to be insufficient if the home market for heavy trucks over 3.5 tons gross weight, on which the company is largely dependent, falls significantly.

below last year's dismal sales figure of 44,950.

The reorganisation plan, devised by Mr Andrews and Mr Ron Hancock, Leyland managing director, is based on the weeding-out of the less efficient production operations and a greater reliance on collaboration deals with other companies.



BL chairman Sir Michael Edwards: he faced two hours of Select Committee grilling at the House of Commons over the future of Leyland.

ments for the Boxer and Terrier trucks.

In reviewing these measures, BL directors must now be looking at the success of its Indian subsidiary, Ashok Leyland, in which BL has a 50.6 per cent stake.

Significantly, £108m of the £300m capital spending earmarked for the Leyland



BL executive deputy chairman, David Andrews: he has special responsibility for the trucks division and broke the news about the redundancies.

Production of Landtrain, the heavy truck for export markets, is to be transferred from Guy Motors in Wolverhampton, which is to be closed, to Bathgate.

Tractors and the EA and FC light trucks presently built at Bathgate are to be phased out and the Scottish plant will become the main truck engine facility. BL is about to announce a long-term deal with a major world engine maker for a unit to replace the Bathgate-built series engine (with Bathgate producing some of the parts) but this may now need to be reappraised.

Gearbox manufacture at the Albion works in Glasgow is to cease — only one in ten Leyland trucks is fitted with BL transmission — and the plant will concentrate on axles. The big Leyland factory in Lancashire will become the main assembly plant, building all new models including replace-

group in the next four years is for Ashok where truck chassis output is expected to be higher next year than in the United Kingdom is to end and as well as the unnamed replacement for the 98 series, Leyland plans to buy Rolls-Royce and United States-built International Harvester power units.

A simplified manufacturing pattern has also been proposed for Leyland's bus making plants but these, too, are being hit by the trucks strike. The four bus factories at Workington, Bristol, Lowestoft and Leeds, which are 50 per cent owned by National Bus, are gradually being geared up to automatic transmissions, axles, engines and other bits and pieces from Leyland.

The big factor that has accelerated the need for the rationalization and exacerbated Leyland's troubles was last year's dramatic slump in the truck market at home. Total sales were down by 20

per cent on 1980 to under 218,000 with the importers helped by the success of cheap Japanese vans, increasing their share from 24.31 per cent.

Sir Michael admits that the company was "way out" in its market forecasts but so too was the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders which predicted at the start of 1981 that the year's total van and truck sales would be 240,000.

Unfortunately for Leyland, the sudden plunge in demand occurred just as it was only half way through the introduction of its new T45, a full range of light to heavy trucks aimed at the whole European market.

Starting at the heavy end, Leyland introduced the Roadtrain articulated lorry cab and followed up with the export-only Landtrain and Landmaster trucks, the Conceptor, Cruiser and Freighter.

The next key model, at present coded the 207, will replace the 16-ton Clydesdale built at Bathgate. Development work on the 207 has been continuing at Leyland and this is behind some of the unrest in Scotland. The truck is due to be launched at this year's motor show and is regarded by the company as crucial to Leyland's survival.

Scheduled for launch late next year is the final T45 model, a light 7.12-ton vehicle. Financial approval was expected to be agreed at today's board meeting but there is now a possibility that this will be postponed.

Without the new models, Leyland will be in a poor position to combat the fierce competition from Ford, Bedford and Dodge and the major importers such as Volvo, Mercedes and Iveco.

All these events are taking place against an increasingly gloomy background for the truck industry. DRI Europe, the former Economic Models forecasting group, said in a recent survey that the United Kingdom industry may never recover from the recession and its lack of competitiveness will continue to depress exports. The United Kingdom it said continues to be "the blackspot of Europe."

Business Editor

Lesson from Carr Sebag

If ever there was a glaring pointer to the problems facing the medium-sized stockbroker with rapidly rising costs, then Exco's effective capital injection into Carr Sebag is it.

Since Christmas Carr Sebag has been casting around for more cash, which at one stage seemed likely to come from one institution and to be put into the business as a whole. Merchant bankers, champing at the bit, were ruled out because of a possible conflict of interest. The Stock Exchange would doubtless have had a view on their gaining a physical attachment to brokers anyway.

In the end Carr Sebag's survival had been at the expense of selling off one of the most profitable parts of the business. The question now is whether the cash to be received is enough to cover the cost, though whether existing partners have had to, or may have to, put up more capital is not clear.

Under-capitalized stockbroking firms is not a new problem. But it is significant that there are now renewed rumblings about increasing the equity level allowed to be in outside hands by 20 per cent to almost a third.

The Council has so far stuck out against having an outside institution with limited liability coming in as major shareholders in a partnership where houses, cars and boats are on line when things go wrong.

The crashes of brokers Norman Collins and Redderwick Stirling Grumbar last year, and the problems of Carr's with the New Year barely a month old, could well be mellowing their attitude. Medium-sized brokers know too well that they may find the firing line during the eighties; and the problems that have arisen the Carr Sebag merger may well force them to recognise that mergers between themselves are not necessarily the right route to escape their quandary.

the 1974-79 Labour Government to acquire a smaller public sector borrowing requirement.

Sir Geoffrey will no doubt breathe a sigh of recognition when he reads that those "four damned letters" — the PSBR — "baffled and dominated" the Labour Government, leading to repeated attempts to find costless means of cutting the public sector total.

Such wheezes, some of which were apparently nicknamed "Leverettes" after their deviser, included the refinancing of export credits by banks and the replacement of local authority mortgage lending by building societies. The result was to wipe hundreds of millions of pounds off public spending on paper, simply by transferring obligations to the private sector.

Magical conjuring tricks have great appeal to the present Government too. But their sleight of hand has been less expert. They are busy transferring not only public liabilities but public assets as well to private hands.

Some, such as the proposed sale of BNOC's oil producing assets, will, perversely, increase the PSBR by the amount of the profits to the Exchequer.

If Sir Geoffrey sees Mr Barnett's book as a source of ideas for more "ripping" wheezes, he will not have learnt his lesson well.

The moral must surely be the identity of numbers as a target of policy number which has little meaning for real economic activity, which can be manipulated merely by definitional shifts between public and private sectors, and which falls utterly to disfigure the picture of the capital spending that is matched by the acquisition of assets and current spending, which is not.

It is to Mr Barnett's credit that he reveals the massaging of PSBR numbers for the sham that it is. Will Mr Leon Barnett have the courage to do the same?

Car industry A long haul

Disappointing Money supply

Financial markets are much more relaxed about the monthly British money supply figures these days in strong contrast to their paranoid obsession with the weekly American money supply figures.

But even the City was none too happy with yesterday's preliminary estimate from the Bank of England that sterling M3, the broad measure of banking money, may have risen by 1½-1¾ per cent in the January banking month.

What the increase means is that the annualized rate of growth since last February, the base money for the present targeting period, has moved up from 15½ per cent in mid-December to 15¾ per cent in mid-January.

The December and January banking months are, of course, rather odd, one being exceptionally short, the other rather longer than usual. Even so, the average rate of growth over the two months of close on 1 per cent is less than encouraging.

Domestic monetary considerations and the dollar exchange rate may argue for interest rate caution, but sterling's unwanted strength against other European currencies seemingly calls for a different course.

PSBR 'Leverettes'

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor, should find instructive beside reading during his pre-budget "insider's guide" the new book by Joel Barnett, former chief secretary to the treasury from 1974 to 1976, which recounts some of the "ripping" last year's 1.48m. Both will wheezes devised by Lord Lever, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, during Budget box next month.

The year came in with a whimper in the car-making business, as yesterday's vehicle production figures issued by the Department of Industry indicate. Output of only 71,000 United Kingdom cars, similar to the depressed level a year earlier, hardly gives rise to hopes of recovery.

Like some other sectors, however, the motor industry seems confident that it has at last hit the bottom of the recession. Car output last year at 918,000 was a far 5,000 down on 1980, a far from the declines averaging 150,000 cars in the previous two years.

But it is clearly going to be a long, slow haul as the United Kingdom car-makers continue to use the year's eroded international competitiveness which is hitting exports and giving comfort to the importers. The heady days of 1976, when United Kingdom car factories produced 1,333,000 vehicles, will probably never be matched.

The Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders is predicting that this year's production will rise to about 980,000 but this remains small beer compared with forecasts of 1.5m in West Germany, 2.8m in France, 1.4m in Italy and 6.5m in Japan.

BL, which claims to be on the road to recovery, is budgeting for output of 500,000 cars this year — strikes and other disruptions permitting — with Sir Michael Edwards, in his last year as chairman, presiding over the introduction of 10 new models and Land Rovers, including four new derivatives of the Metro.

BL and its arch rival, Ford, are struggling to reduce costs in the hope of meeting European productivity standards and capturing more of this year's 1.48m United Kingdom market which is expected to rise to at least 1.52m from last year's 1.48m. Both will also welcome any crumbs thrown from the Chancellor's Budget box next month.

Are women first to be sacked?

AT WORK: DISCRIMINATION

By Margaret Drummond

The Sex Discrimination Act, for so long the butt of feeble jokes about lady plumbers and chairpersons, is showing its teeth on the work front. It may not have improved women's accessibility to jobs — traditional job segregation on the factory floor seems as rigid as ever — but the SDA may help women keep their jobs in a recession that has taken a proportionately higher toll of female workers.

Two weeks ago Mrs Elizabeth Dicks, a part time scientific researcher at Dundee University, won her case against redundancy before an industrial tribunal. Backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, Mrs Dicks claimed unfair dismissal and sex discrimination after the university asked her part time job following government spending cuts. Central to her case was the argument that redundancy programmes cutting part time jobs first amounted to indirect sex discrimination because most of these jobs are held by women.

Her success followed another case where the National Council for Civil Liberties won a significant victory when an industrial tribunal held that the traditional practice of making part time workers redundant first was illegal under the Sex Discrimination Act. Mrs Dicks was among the part time workers, all women, made redundant last Autumn at the Eley Kynoch factory in Birmingham. The redundancy agreement between the employers and the union was that part timers should go first.

If a "last in, first out" selection had been applied to the whole workforce the



Women's rights are slow to filter through to the shop floor

women would not have been made redundant although some full timers, including women workers, would have lost their jobs instead. The tribunal found this form of redundancy agreement in breach of the Sex Discrimination Act.

Sandra Powell was reinstated in her job because she had a young child and was unable to take a full time job. But Mrs Clarke, who had no dependent children, lost her job and is appealing.

But the general principle arising from this case has important implications for the country's 4 million part

time workers. The EOC suspects this is only the tip of the iceberg. It is impossible to know how many part time workers may have fallen foul of illegal redundancy agreements since the start of the recession.

It is easy to see why the TUC is ducking the issue despite the clear message of the court cases. The old idea of the man as breadwinner because of the fact that most families need a second wage these days. But much more disturbing is a suggestion that even full time women workers may be discriminated against through redundancy agreements that adopt a "last in, first out" basis in individual sections rather than across the board.

With many factories still effectively divided between "men's jobs" and "women's jobs" the EOC claims these agreements means women out.

A classic example was the recent problems at the Hoover factory in Merthyr Tydfil

where this type of redundancy agreement applied to a near medieval system of job demarcation between the sexes so that a third of the women, but less than 10 per cent of the men in the same semi-skilled grades, stood to lose their jobs. On a straight "last in, first out" principle most of the women's jobs would have been safe.

Threats to take the matter to court under the Sex Discrimination Act resulted in the Hoover management shelving redundancies for six months and forced the union to negotiate a new non-discriminatory union agreement.

The question of whether these kind of redundancy agreements amount to discrimination is being put to the test by another case backed by the EOC. Four women workers at the Kraft factory at Kirby, near Liverpool, alleged sex discrimination in their selection for redundancy.

Their case, which highlights the Byzantine complexity of demarcation practices on the factory floor has been heard by an industrial tribunal and the judgement is eagerly awaited.

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51	33	Armstrong & Rhodes	44	—	4.3	9.8	3.7
205	187	Bardon Hill	204	—	9.7	4.8	9.8
104	77	Deborah Services	77	—	6.0	7.8	12.1
130	97	Frank Horsell	130	—	6.4	4.9	11.7
80	39	Frederick Parker	80	—	1.7	2.1	34.8
78	46	George Blair	50	—	—	—	—
102	83	IPC	96	—	7.3	7.6	6.9
105	100	Isis Conv Pref	105	—	15.7	15.0	—
113	94	Jackson Group	94	—	7.6	7.4	3.0
130	108	James Burrough	112	—	8.7	7.8	8.2
334	250	Robert Jenkins	252	—	31.3	12.4	3.5
59	51	Scruttons "A"	56	—	5.3	9.5	8.6
222	164	Torday & Carlisle	164	—	10.7	6.5	5.3
15	10	Twinklford Ord	13	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinklford 15% UL5	76	—	15.0	19.7	—
44	27	Unilock Holdings	27	—	3.0	11.1	4.8
103	75	Walter Alexander	75	—	6.4	8.5	4.9
263	212	W. S. Yeates	220	—	13.1	6.0	4.2

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Further falls

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\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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Beaumont retires to avoid risk of serious injury

By Peter West
Rugby Correspondent

The rugby world was stunned yesterday by the news that Bill Beaumont had played his last game, although it had been long-expected by those closest to the English camp. It could not stanch the flow of tributes coming in from every quarter to a man who holds a very special place in the affection of his players, their supporters and a wider public to whom this respected character has become so familiar and popular a figure.

England's captain made his decision after a leading neurologist had given him an exhaustive, five-hour examination and told him that he was "not suffering another kick to the same spot on his head as that which he received in the country final 10 days ago, it could result in brain damage."

"Basically," Beaumont said, "I was passed 100 per cent fit, with just a few signs of wear and tear. That tied in with the medical verdict after I'd had a similar injury in France last year. I was told I was fit to go. But now I had the neck of a 40-year-old. I had now, I was given advice to quit the game at once. Another crack in the same place might have happened to me. You are an international risk, there's an obvious risk."

That Beaumont has taken the only sensible position is one in his right mind will dispute. Of all the tributes paid to him yesterday, no one has encapsulated the general feeling better than his forceful Lancashire president, John Burgess, who said: "I feel quite emotional. Bill Beaumont as a man and a player, in that order, is the best thing to have happened to rugby in my county and in the world for as long as I can remember. This is very sad, but the most important thing is his health and family. Thank goodness he has made the decision now".

Beaumont himself is thankful that the decision could be made without undue delay, and shows out with the consolation of having done almost everything a player hopes to achieve when he sets out on a rugby

career. I've made some lifelong friends, which is one of the joys of the game".

Agd 29, he won the first of his 34 caps (the last 33 of them in succession), against Ireland in 1975, and how vividly I remember his heroic performance in Brisbane when he got his second, against Australia, later that year. Having retired with an extremely nasty head wound requiring many stitches, he came back, swathed in bandages, to take Mike Burton's place at tight head prop. One knew then, that this was a very

special man from Fyde.

Beaumont first played for his beloved Lancashire in 1973; flew out in 1977 as a most successful replacement for the ailing captain, and then the two internationals against New Zealand; inspired the North to a famous victory over the All Blacks at Old Trafford in 1979, and England to a grand slam in 1980, against the touring South Africa in the same year; led England for the 21st time, comfortably a record, when playing his last international, against Scotland in January; and, finally, played all but half of the Lancashire final at North Midlands.

Moseley is the other star.

In the New Year's honours list he was awarded, to universal pleasure, the OBE for services to rugby. There is not much doubt, given fitness and retention of form, that, come the summer of 1983, he would have been the first man to captain two Lions sides.

He asserts, and nobody will disbelieve him, that he wants to get back into things and "give a little bit to help the game that has given him so much". His influence whether as coach, selector, administrator or high allickadoo (and who can doubt that one day William Blackledge Beaumont will be president of the RFU?) will be down to earth, pervasive, inspiring and wholly beneficial.

Beaumont has been a quite outstanding, fearless look forward whose consistency of commitment and performance never wavered, and a magnificent leader of men who would have gone through hell and

high water for him. His attitude to rugby, and the way he played it in the hardest and yet the most chivalrous fashion, was a shining advertisement for all that is best in a great game.

A man of the most genuine modesty, he always gave credit to others. I do not think he has a enemy in the world, only a legion of admirers. With that lived-in face, that unfailingly buoyant good humour—and that flat cap worn when an unwilling spectator at Twickenham last Saturday—he has been a charismatic, lovable character whose impact on the wider public has been greater than at any time since Gareth Edwards retired.

Steve Bainbridge, the Gloucestershire and Northumberland lock, will win his first cap as Beaumont's replacement for England against France in Paris on Saturday week. Steve Smith continues as captain, the Gloucestershire scrum-half. Phil Blake was the Gloucestershire prop said: "I have had my share of neck troubles over the years and you take medical advice without argument, as Bill has done. I was lucky enough to get the OK. Bill has been unlucky and rugby has lost a great player and a great

Frank Cotton, the former Sale Harrier, played with Beaumont for the British Lions and in 1918 England internationals. Exchange Telegraph reports, "He is just the sort of a player for the game worldwide," Cotton said.

Steve Smith, the current England captain, said: "I spoke to Billy just before he went for the tests yesterday and he was no thought in my mind of having to talk to me. He thought he was just going to get a second opinion. He is probably the last of the nice guys—a totally honest man. He was just the same whether he was leading England and out or speaking to me on the side."

Andy Irvine, Scotland's captain, described Beaumont as "The best captain I have ever played under. He was as brave as they come and was a damned good all-round player."



Packing up his troubles: Beaumont put on a cheerful face yesterday at the Chorley textile firm where he is a director.

French make wholesale team changes

By David Hands

It is one of life's ironies that, no more than four years ago Ireland and Scotland (and England, too) were spoken of somewhat disparagingly as the second division sides in the international championship. But the immediate focus of the current championship is Dublin on February 20 when Scotland will attempt to prevent Ireland from winning their first triple crown in 33 years.

Ysterday Scotland announced a XV unchanged from that which drew 9-9 with England last month, to meet the Irish at Lansdowne Road. The Irish hope to confirm their team today but it can hardly differ from that which overcame England at Twickenham last Saturday.

Already Ireland's current internationalists have been asked to rest this weekend, to avoid the risk of injury in club games. Scotland, too, must have been told to take it easy. The players who have been able to create an excellent spirit during last summer's tour to New Zealand and internationals against Romania and Australia this season, as well as the World Cup, will be going forwards went well against England and the collision with the Irish pack will be an occasion for strong men to savour; the Scottish players have not yet revealed their full potential and will have that opportunity in Dublin.

If all that seems decently predictable, so was the expectation that France would come up with something a bit different after their disappointing showing

after their disappointing showing against Wales last Saturday. Quite rightly, the black spot has been placed on the forwards and a wholesale change for the game against England in Paris on February 20 has left only Rives the captain, and Dintrans in the positions they occupied in Cardiff.

The most distinguished casualty is Paparemborde, who has won 38 caps, a record for a French prop forward. The shopkeeper from Pau, who is also on the executive committee of the French federation, began the season as captain of France in the absence of Rives but success against Romania was followed by two defeats against New Zealand, and subsequently

To replace a plover generally regarded as one of the best light-head props in the world the French have called upon Daniel Dubrocz, aged 27, from Agen who was in the second international against New Zealand in November as a replacement. He is joined in the front row by Jean-Pierre Wolff (Beziers) who replaces a Frenchman frustrated by a penalty party in the string of defeats awarded against France last Saturday.

In the second row Revallier and Lortoux are dropped and replaced by Jean-Louis Lortoux and Laurent Rodriguez.

who played No. 8 against Wales and moved up and down the line out like a yo-yo in an effort to combat Welsh supremacy in that area.

The most distinguished casualty occurs in the back row where Jean-Luc Joinel (Brive) returns. He will play at No. 8 with Rives on one flank and the only new Cap Eric Buchet on the other. Buchet (Nice) must have created a good impression in the 44-4

good impression in the defeat of Scotland-B on Sunday when he scored two tries.

Wolf, the loose-head, was capped as a young, very experienced forward on the French tour to South Africa in 1980. He is still only 21 and Blakeway will aim to improve his rugby education.

SCOTLAND: R. Irvine (Forster's captain), M. W. Robertson (Melrose), J. G. Smith (Hawick) and

[illegible]

Ice skating Championships go on in spite of threat

Copenhagen, Feb. 9.—Whether or not there will be television coverage of the 1982 World Figure Skating Championships, due to open near Copenhagen on March 9, is still far from certain. Finn Olsen, however, chairman of the organizing Danish Skating Union, vowed on Tuesday that the event would be held there even if a wage dispute involving Danish television technicians prevents TV coverage.

It that happens, Mr Olsen said, the DSU and the International Skating Union stand to lose \$200,000 in television rights and advertising revenues. "I don't want to get into a fight with the ISU," he said. "I don't want to see people when I was in Lyon for the European Championships, and they said they were definitely not considering moving the world championships." Mr. Olsen said. The European event ended last

"The decision whether to go ahead with the championships is the DSU's alone", Mr Olsen said. "I'm optimistic and we're proceeding as planned."

Radio Denmark, which was to televise the event for networks in Europe, North America and Japan, has threatened to lock out more than 950 employees on March 3 if the two sides cannot agree on cost-of-living increases that went into effect in January.

More than 150 skaters from 30 countries are expected for the championships which last from March 9 to 14. The dispute is just one more headache for sports organizers trying to establish Denmark as a suitable venue for international events.

Organizers of this country's first Grand Prix tennis tournament are under pressure to cancel the \$170,000 Danish Indoor Open, which is scheduled for May 12-15 in Olsøen, near Copenhagen. The Danish Foreign Minister, has blocked entry visas for South African players.

But both the International Tennis Federation and the players' Association of Tennis Professionals, agreed to give the Danish organizers time to try to solve the problem.

The Danish players, who are professional tennis players represent themselves and not countries. Representatives of the Men's International Professional Tennis Association said they will consider revoking the tournament's Grand Prix rating if the Danish Government persists in its ban.—AP.

Student rugby
**Cup final looks
like being
the same again**

The British Polytechnics' Cup, sponsored by *Rugby World*, reaches the semi-final stage today with every chance of last year's finalists emerging once again. Wales, the holders, meet North Staffordshire at Sutton Coldfield and Bristol, last season's beaten

Wales pin their hopes on a tenacious pack and the experience behind the scrum of three players who have appeared in the Wales B squad. These are Walsh, the full back, Yeandle, the wing, and Gosling, the centre. But they are without their injured captain Evans.

In the other match, Bristol field five forwards who have appeared in the British Polytechnics representative side and they are led by Mills, a prop.

Neither of the remaining semi-finalists should be discouraged, though. Both North Staffordshire and Leeds have recently benefited from amalgamation with leading Physical Education colleges, the former with Madeley College and the latter with Carnegie College.

Durham rely on a prop from Paris

By Our Sports Staff
Durham and Exeter universities are favourites to qualify for the finals of the UAU championship from today's semi-finals. Durham meet Manchester (2.15) at York University and Exeter take on Lancaster, the surprise package

this season, at the West Hills Ground, Redhill Road, Birmingham (7.30).

Durham beat Manchester 12-7 at the same stage of the competition last season. Simon Henderson, the Rosslyn Park and Surrey prop, will be flown from Paris, where he is studying languages as part of his Durham course. His suburban residence

Durham will rely on the kicking skills of Nick Chesworth, of Bedford and Eastern Couder, and the fleet-footed running of Mark Bailey, who played on the wing for London against the Wallabies.

Exeter have scored 247 points in six games in the championship (including 90 against Southampton). They have appeared in two out of the last three finals but lost both.

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds This table is published on Wednesday and Saturday

1980-81				1981-82				1982-83				1983-84				1984-85				1985-86				1986-87				1987-88				1988-89				1989-90				1990-91				1991-92				1992-93				1993-94				1994-95				1995-96				1996-97				1997-98				1998-99				1999-00				2000-01				2001-02				2002-03				2003-04				2004-05				2005-06				2006-07				2007-08				2008-09				2009-10				2010-11				2011-12				2012-13				2013-14				2014-15				2015-16				2016-17				2017-18				2018-19				2019-20				2020-21				2021-22				2022-23				2023-24				2024-25				2025-26				2026-27				2027-28				2028-29				2029-30				2030-31				2031-32				2032-33				2033-34				2034-35				2035-36				2036-37				2037-38				2038-39				2039-40				2040-41				2041-42				2042-43				2043-44				2044-45				2045-46				2046-47				2047-48				2048-49				2049-50				2050-51				2051-52				2052-53				2053-54				2054-55				2055-56				2056-57				2057-58				2058-59				2059-60				2060-61				2061-62				2062-63				2063-64				2064-65				2065-66				2066-67				2067-68				2068-69				2069-70				2070-71				2071-72				2072-73				2073-74				2074-75				2075-76				2076-77				2077-78				2078-79				2079-80				2080-81				2081-82				2082-83				2083-84				2084-85				2085-86				2086-87				2087-88				2088-89				2089-90				2090-91				2091-92				2092-93				2093-94				2094-95				2095-96				2096-97				2097-98				2098-99				2099-00				2100-01				2101-02				2102-03				2103-04				2104-05				2105-06				2106-07				2107-08				2108-09				2109-10				2110-11				2111-12				2112-13				2113-14				2114-15				2115-16				2116-17				2117-18				2118-19				2119-20				2120-21				2121-22				2122-23				2123-24				2124-25				2125-26				2126-27				2127-28				2128-29				2129-30				2130-31				2131-32				2132-33				2133-34				2134-35				2135-36				2136-37				2137-38				2138-39				2139-40				2140-41				2141-42				2142-43				2143-44				2144-45				2145-46				2146-47				2147-48				2148-49				2149-50				2150-51				2151-52				2152-53				2153-54				2154-55				2155-56				2156-57				2157-58				2158-59				2159-60				2160-61				2161-62				2162-63				2163-64				2164-65				2165-66				2166-67				2167-68				2168-69				2169-70				2170-71				2171-72				2172-73				2173-74				2174-75				2175-76				2176-77				2177-78				2178-79				2179-80				2180-81				2181-82				2182-83				2183-84				2184-85				2185-86				2186-87				2187-88				2188-89				2189-90				2190-91				2191-92				2192-93				2193-94				2194-95				2195-96				2196-97				2197-98				2198-99				2199-00				2200-01				2201-02				2202-03				2203-04				2204-05				2205-06				2206-07				2207-08				2208-09				2209-10				2210-11				2211-12				2212-13				2213-14				2214-15				2215-16				2216-17				2217-18				2218-19				2219-20				2220-21				2221-22				2222-23				2223-24				2224-25				2225-26				2226-27				2227-28				2228-29				2229-30				2230-31				2231-32				2232-33				2233-34				2234-35				2235-36				2236-37				2237-38				2238-39				2239-40				2240-41				2241-42				2242-43				2243-44				2244-45				2245-46				2246-47				2247-48				2248-49				2249-50				2250-51				2251-52				2252-53				2253-54				2254-55				2255-56				2256-57				2257-58				2258-59				2259-60				2260-61				2261-62				2262-63				2263-64				2264-65				2265-66				2266-67				2267-68				2268-69				2269-70				2270-71				2271-72				2272-73				2273-74				2274-75				2275-76				2276-77				2277-78				2278-79				2279-80				2280-81				2281-82				2282-83				2283-84				2284-85				2285-86				2286-87				2287-88				2288-89				2289-90				2290-91				2291-92				2292-93				2293-94				2294-95				2295-96				2296-97				2297-98				2298-99				2299-00				2300-01				2301-02				2302-03				2303-04				2304-05				2305-06				2306-07				2307-08				2308-09				2309-10				2310-11				2311-12				2312-13				2313-14				2314-15				2315-16				2316-17				2317-18				2318-19				2319-20				2320-21				2321-22				2322-23				2323-24				2324-25				2325-26				2326-27				2327-28				2328-29				2329-30				2330-31				2331-32				2332-33				2333-34				2334-35				2335-36				2336-37				2337-38				2338-39				2339-40				2340-41				2341-42				2342-43				2343-44				2344-45				2345-46				2346-47				2347-48				2348-49				2349-50				2350-51				2351-52				2352-53				2353-54				2354-55				2355-56				2356-57				2357-58				2358-59				2359-60				2360-61				2361-62				2362-63				2363-64				2364-65				2365-66				2366-67				2367-68				2368-69				2369-70				2370-71				2371-72				2372-73				2373-74				2374-75				2375-76				2376-77				2377-78				2378-79				2379-80				2380-81				2381-82				2382-83				2383-84				2384-85				2385-86				2386-87				2387-88				2388-89				2389-90				2390-91				2391-92				2392-93				2393-94				2394-95				2395-96				2396-97				2397-98				2398-99				2399-00				2400-01				2401-02				2402-03				2403-04				2404-05				2405-06				2406-07				2407-08				2408-09				2409-10				2410-11				2411-12				2412-13				2413-14				2414-15				2415-16				2416-17				2417-18				2418-19				2419-20				2420-21				2421-22				2422-23				2423-24				2424-25				2425-26				2426-27				2427-28				2428-29				2429-30				2430-31				2431-32				2432-33				2433-34				2434-3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Liverpool reach Wembley again

LIVERPOOL: B Grubbelaar, P S
Woods, A Stevenson, S Kennedy,
Nigel, A Harrison, S Doolish
Leeds: J Rush, McDermott, G Sou-
thworth, P Cooper, G Bar-
ley, S McCall, M Mills, F Thijssen
(sub R Turner), A Hunter, J Ward,
A Muhren, K O'Callaghan, A Brazil,
E Gates.
Referee: L C Shapter (Torquay).

Saunders resigns from Aston Villa

New League honour

Coventry's home match against Sunderland, postponed from February 13 because of the Oxford cup-tie, will now be played on February 23.



Young Sri Lankan takes a century off jaded England

Weeks and its lasting properties still remain to be seen. Meanwhile, the crowd, including numerous school parties, numbered only 3,000, which was a disappointment.

Wettimuny drew on all his experience to take on the brunt of the early threat from Lever and Abbott. But he was brilliantly caught after 85 minutes by Gower, left handed at third slip, from a chance that seemed to have passed the fieldsmen. Warnakulasuriya and Jayasekera previously had both played on a fine fore-

absorb the atmosphere on one of representative cricketer's less satisfactory occasions.

PRESIDENT'S XI: First Innings
S N R S S Wettnumy, c Governor
b Abbot 0
W Awarakalagurria, b Lever 6
R S A Jayachakra, b Lever 0
S S Alidugalle, not out 115
P D Mendis, c Underwood 1
A Potti 0
A Ramalinga, c Richards 28
E Embrey 2
Perera not out 23
Extras (b 9, lb 3, n-o 2) 14
Total 15 wickets 277
R C G E Wijesinghe, c Jayaraman
J R Ranayake and V Jayasinghe

own piece of re-
will be Algani
that unfortunate
April and disca-
he faces an infi-
this afternoon t
ago

On that occas-
was of no great
put it mildly.
include not on-
also Cavty Hur-
conquering M-
stable, and Gri-
he asked

Hosking at a loose end

Australia's tit

RESULTS: First round: J. Dunn (England) 21, 8 McFadden (Canada)

In the women's match, the most interesting confrontation could be the domestic clash between Ann Marie Cording and Diana Elliott in the high jump. Both have broken the national indoor record within the past three weeks and Mrs Cording's best of 1.9 metres

FOOTBALL LEAGUE: Colchester United v Reading 1.11.11. Oxford United v Reading 1.11.11. Norwich v Rangers v Plymouth 13.30.
FA TROPHY: Second round replay: Mossley v Woking.
ESSEX SENIOR CUP: Semi-Final round: Rainham Town v Colchester United.
ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: First division: Bognor Regis Town v Havant & Waterlooville FC. Weymouth v Weymouth Second division: Tring Town v Liphworth Garden City.

Loughborough v Exeter (Lilleshall)
Korzen: Semi-final round: Abres
twish v Bradford (Lilleshall); Birm
ingham v Loughborough (Leicester).
BRITISH POLYTECHNIC ASSOCIA
Tion: Semi-final round: Trent
Oxford: Portsmouth v Wolverhampton
(Bristol).

Weather and Mahres' luck change

down a drop of 392 metres on both runs, was a substitute for an earlier event in Val d'Isère which was cancelled because of bad weather.

The mar-

Dittmar, who was the runner-up in the singles event in Kuala Lumpur last week, was admitted to hospital last night with suspected appendicitis after leading his side to a 3-0 win over Hongkong. It is not known when Dittmar, aged 18, will be able to play again, but even without his services, Australia continued their winning ways when they beat

Sweden stretched top seeded Pakistan to the full before going down 3-0 in the final day's play of the preliminary round. Pakistan's number one Sohail Qaiser, who won the singles title in Kuala Lumpur last week, was taken to five sets before beating Erik Johnson in 2-9, 9-7, 9-9, 9-4, 9-4.

The Swedes include the Top Twelve winner Mikael Appelgren in their squad and Douglas, who finished with only one win less on Sunday, and who led Appelgren by two games before losing

England lifted the women's doubles title when the top-seeded pair, Carole Knight and Joy Grunsky, came from behind to defeat the Indians Indu Puri and Vyoma Shah, 19-21, 21-13, 21-23, 21-14, 21-11 in a thrilling final.

Alexander, who at 30 is the third-oldest player in a 48-man field, will face the tournament's youngest, 16-year-old Jimmy Brown, in the second round.

Alexander, once ranked as high as number eight in the world, is attempting a come back after a 1980 back injury, and is now

Steve Manre scored 14th place with the Italian Ivano Edalini. "I do not know why I lost today," he said. "One day it goes better than the other. Maybe I ski better on a hard track." The 1,430-metre course was soft after heavy snow falls during the night and a handicap for later

"I made a little mistake on the bottom of the second run. I hit a little hole and she skied

There are nine World Cup races left in the women's division. After the downhill races at Arosa, the competitors move to Winter Park, Aspen and Waterville in the United States before returning in Europe for races at San Sicario and

Playfields has
races and two
Ireland, and
money. He is
not beautifully
Pilkington, who

KANSAS CITY, Women's tournament: 1. L. Platek (U.S.), beat P. Medrado (Brazil), 6-1, 6-1. A. Leonard (U.S.) beat S. Collins (U.S.), 6-0, 6-3. Claudia Kohde (W. Germany), beat E. Pfaff (W. Germany), 6-1, 6-1.

GRAND PRIX (U.S. unless stated): 1. J. Sadri, 110pts. 2. J. McInroe, 300; 3. A. Gomez (Ecuador), 238; 4. J. Cornout, 210; 5. S. Mayer, 160; 6. V. Gerulaitis and C. Hooper, 120; 8.

SHN strati: 9 McQueen beat 4
 Williams 4-4 5-5 M La-
 born beat A Davies 8-10 7-7
 1st: M Scot Capable lost to:
 H Evans 5-7 9-5
 2nd: Pool C: Pakistan beat Sweden
 3rd: Pool D: England beat Ireland
 4th: C. Willstrop beat J McKay
 5th: 10-10 J Hickok beat J
 Phelan 10-10
 6th: P Kreenagh 9-0 A Cron
 7th: West Germany beat Malaysia 5-3

England have an unchanged squad, so Douggie Johnson, who made a remarkable singles debut by beating the former European champion Milan Orlovski in a match against Czechoslovakia

C. Knighl 21-14, 21-15 21-17;
 bral V Domonkos & C. Hoi
 (Canada) 21-13, 21-9, 20-22;
 21-14, Final Knighl and Grandy
 bral Puri and Shah 17-21, 21-15,
 21-17, 21-13 21-11
MEN'S DOUBLES: Semi-finals: A
 Mulla and S Eboh (Nigeria) beat A
 Khan and H. Hossain (Pakistan)
 21-13, 21-11; 21-17, 21-20
 Kose-
 novic and J. N6 (Canada) bral V
 Chandrasekhar and M. Singh (India)

Top-seeded John McEnroe and second-seeded Eliot Teltscher, both Americans, play their first

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Seefeld	145	195	Good
Excellent skiing conditions			
Germaiz	75	155	Good
Worn patches on lower slopes.			

Varied	—	Cloud	—
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Varied	Fair	Fine	2

David Jarman, of Surrey, Woking Club, will be defending the championship time he set up last year. More than 120 competitors are expected to be on his

SATURDAY'S FIRST
 ... at California
 University at Knoxville

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Racing

Little Owl ready to pass Ascot's searching test

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

A glimpse of the horses who won the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the Grand National last season is the treat in store at Ascot today. Even more so, it is the fact that Little Owl and Aldanti, the two in question, are the same race, the Whitbread Trial Handicap Steeplechase.

Aldanti won this prize 12 months ago en route to Liverpool, where he and Bob Champion subsequently made their own place in racing history. This was Aldanti's first race since that unforgettable day early last April and already it is clear that he faces an infinitely harder task this afternoon than he did a year ago.

On that occasion his opposition was of no great consequence, in fact it was mild. Today it will include not only Little Owl but also Cavty Hunter, from the all-conquering Michael Dickinson stable, and Gritter, who is likely to be asked to try to scale the heights of the highest peak at Cheltenham and Aintree later this spring. While no one should be unduly worried if Aldanti fails to win this afternoon, there will certainly be a big crowd to mention some long faces, if Little Owl does not run well.

Little Owl still has something to prove. Without peers last season, he could hardly have begun the defence of his crown more disastrously by falling at Cheltenham, on the last day of the Old Year, and then failing to

complete the course at Kempton last month. Then, to make matters worse, the leading bookmakers, whose intelligence network is second to none, promptly knocked Little Owl's price for this year's Gold Cup out to 8-1 — an offer which was little short of insulting. In the meantime, both his trainer, Peter Easterby, and his rider, John O'Leary, have insisted that all is well in their camp. With that assertion, they are putting their heads on the block and as they have so much to lose, it will be a brave person who disbelieves them.

I am convinced that Little Owl is, at least, entitled to another chance to prove that he is still on top in his attempt to emulate L'Escargot, who was the last to win jumping's blue ribbon at Cheltenham in successive years, and for that reason, Little Owl is my selection this afternoon. When he wins the Gold Cup, he simply added fuel to his previous performance in the Gold Cup, and it is indicated that he was good enough to win a race of today's calibre.

Aldanti's part, his most interesting rival this afternoon, is undoubtedly Gritter, who won the Foxhounds Steeplechase at both Cheltenham and Liverpool last season. This time, though, he is after the Gold on both those courses.

The fact that Gritter's three wins were achieved by falling at Cheltenham was only about three seconds slower than that which Little Owl took to win the Gold

Cup, half an hour later, must be called as evidence when one considers his chance of beating Little Owl now.

At Cheltenham, they carried the same weight. Now the difference is 20lb and Gritter was promisingly in his first race of the season at Leicester last week. Cavty Hunter, Dickinson's representative, has not run since he won at Leicester in November. Yesterday, his trainer who has been carrying all before him recently, admitted to having misgivings about the soft ground.

There are several other interesting races at Ascot today including the Repulse Novices Steeplechase, won two seasons ago by Little Owl and which should provide an interesting pointer to Cheltenham. Dickinson is of the opinion that his mother's seven-year-old Semus O'Flynn is a "Cheltenham horse" and, perhaps, just the sort to win the Sun Alliance Steeplechase there next month.

Semus O'Flynn boasts an impressive record this season but to justify that tag he must now give weight and a beating to both Riches and Drumargan. Twelve months ago, Riches won the Fernbank Hurdle so his ability to win today's course cannot be doubted. Furthermore, he has adapted to jumping fences.

Even greater danger to Semus O'Flynn must surely be Drumargan, who was good enough to win the Sun Alliance Novices Hurdle at Cheltenham two years ago. The 8 lb that he receives from my selection might prove a significant factor. However, it is worth pointing out that Drumargan was beaten by Kildowen was himself beaten size lengths by Semus O'Flynn's stable companion, Wayward Lad, at Ascot in November, when he, too, was receiving a stone from Wayward Lad.

In the circumstances, I am tempted to think that Drumargan is not invincible. He has won over three miles Semus O'Flynn may be capable of successfully conceding him weight.



The Cheltenham Gold Cup winner, Little Owl has Aldanti in close rivals for the Whitbread Trial Handicap Steeplechase.

Narvik in form for Newcastle date

By Michael Seely

Narvik showed superb fighting qualities to win the George Cony Challenge Cup at Warwick yesterday. When Peter Warner saw Spring Rocker clear seven fences from home the race looked all over. However, approaching their straight, Narvik started to close the gap. Still three lengths adrift jumping the last fence, Lady Coogan's 1980 Welsh Grand National winner refused to give up. Colin Hawkins forced the horse's head in front close from home to win by a head with The Winner 12 lengths away third, Lucky Vane, the 5-2 favourite, was always struggling and could only pick up a few straggling horses to take fourth place.

Narvik's trainer Neville Crump, has already won three Grand Nationals with Sheila's Cottage, Merryman II and Teal. However, Narvik has not even been entered at Aintree. "Narvik has to have heavy ground," Hawkins said. "They would always be going too fast for him at Liverpool."

In the absence of the training of Hawkins who looked more exhausted than his mount, thought that Narvik might go for Newcastle's Elder Chase on Saturday. The Elder is also the target for the third horse, The Winner. "Robert Earnshaw said that the old horse started jumping a mile from home. He needed the race badly and this will have put him right for Newcastle. After that we will be off to Aintree again."

Earlier in the afternoon, Earnshaw had ridden his 13th winner of the season when driving Bravos to a length-and-a-half victory over Ballymore in the Prince of Wales Handicap Steeplechase. After the race Michael Dickinson's jockey was called before the stewards and fined £25 for excessive use of the whip. Watching the camera patrol film afterwards, it was clear that the dividers were justified in their decision as the jockey had hit Bravos 11 times on the quarters, on the run home from the last fence. Dickinson was not at Aintree but his father, Tony, said: "It was so unlike the lad. The chief thing about Robert is that he is such a skilful and sensitive horseman. And so it is incredible that he should be hitting Bravos and Wayward Lad. He has earned the 23-year-old jockey prize from all sides this season."

Bravos, who has home last Sunday to St Albans but the match was not played because of the bad weather in which the two sides became engulfed after the resumption of an alternative ground at Crystal Palace had earlier been cancelled. The deluge, which made play impossible at Bromley, began at about 11 am, and to make matters worse, the competitions delegates, for various reasons, arrived on the scene too late to make a decision on whether the match scheduled to be played this Sunday at St Albans.

Bishop's Stortford, from the premier division of the East League, who caused the only surprise last week by beating

Gymnastics Britain opposes the IOC stand on drugs

By Peter Aykroyd

The request by the International Olympic Committee meeting in Los Angeles last week that the Fédération Internationale de Gymnastique (FIG), the world governing body, should investigate drug abuse as a prerequisite to the 1984 Olympic Games, has been dismissed as unnecessary by senior British officials.

Franklyn Edmonds, president of the British Amateur Gymnastic Association, and vice-president of the FIG, said: "In the lack of any basic evidence, it is sheer conjecture to assume that drugs are taken by gymnasts." The conviction in some circles that the use of drugs in gymnastics is widespread, was strengthened at the 1978 world championships in Stuttgart, Germany, where several small girls of elite build and some women gymnasts from the Soviet Union and Romania attracted attention.

Dr Robert Klein, chief medical examiner at the championships, said he believed that some Soviet girls were being given a drug to retard puberty. The drug could not be identified, but it was thought that it acted on the pituitary gland to delay the onset of menstruation. Klein added that he had seen a series of photographs of a Soviet gymnast in which her breast development appeared not only to have slowed down, but reversed.

Since then, neither Dr Klein, nor any other authority, has produced medical evidence to support these theories. Random doping tests were conducted by the FIG last November at the world championships in Moscow and no case of drug-taking by male or female gymnasts came to light.

The BAGA is definite on its attitude to drugs and is emphatic that gymnastics does not need to

use the Sports Council's drug testing centre at Chelsea. Tony Murdoch, the BAGA's development director, said: "Our doctor says that there is no known drug that would help a gymnast. He knows of no drug that would not either disorientate or seriously harm a competitor. Even if the boys took steroids to build up their bodies, it would affect their sense of balance and timing."

Further, a doctor would cooperate in prescribing any form of drug to improve the performances of young gymnasts. What, then, produces the many gymnasts who dominate the world's major competitions? The answer is a carefully controlled diet combined with a tough physical programme. The standard of the sport is of vital importance and dietary discipline is necessary to keep weight in check.

If a high protein diet, linked with great physical effort, is applied to a girl before puberty, her physical development can be delayed slightly. Mr Murdoch said: "Some Eastern Block gymnasts are meticulous in their concern to keep their weight down. The result is a high percentage of having the average 15 per cent fat on their bodies, their percentage is about seven and this retards their growth." Young ballet dancers can also experience much the same condition.

Instances of drug-taking among gymnasts in Britain have been reported to date but none have any examples of drug abuse among British gymnasts. The BAGA, however, the FIG, taken by surprise in Los Angeles, may be forced to set up a medical panel on drug-taking to referee gymnastics and other sports organizations, but also by Western media.

Pollardstown doubtful

Pollardstown is very doubtful for Saturday's Cheltenham Gold Trophy at Newbury. His Lambourn trainer, Stan Mellor, said that the seven-year-old is suffering from a muscular problem.

The tote revealed a backing for Edsworth Boy for the race and have shortened his odds from 20-1 to 16-1.

Point-to-Point Mr Mellors meets his match

By Ian Reid

The new season got off to a fine start with the Eastern Harriers' meeting at Higham and the Staff College and R.M.A. Drag at Tweseldown. In both races, the first five of the favourites for the six open races at the two meetings were defeated, though the going was near perfect.

The biggest shock came in the Albright and Wilson ladies' open at Higham in which Jackaway, standing over 15 hands, was outpulled and, more than once, outjumped the formidable combination of Mr. Mellors and leading lady rider, Lucy Gibbon (see King).

The men's open, the first qualifying race for the Christie's T.M. final, was won by Highland Storm, a massive 16.2 hands, from Kiltour, who Big Ben Five leapt a third. The first two earned tickets to Chesham, but the form may not amount to much.

At Tweseldown, Zarzeff looked like justifying his short price in the women's race when Jenny Pidgeon, a massive 15.2 hands, was outpulled and, more than once, outjumped the formidable combination of Mr. Mellors and leading lady rider, Lucy Gibbon (see King).

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Ascot programme

Tote Double: 2.30 and 3.35 Treble 2.0, 3.0 and 4.10

(Television BBC2): 2.0, 2.30, 3.0 and 3.35 races

1.30 DATCHER HURDLE (novices: 22.715; 2m) (16 runners)

101 1280 WINDMILL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
102 1281 MASTER ANDREW (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
103 1282 CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
104 1283 COLONIAL CENTRAL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
105 1284 BONY MAY (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
106 1285 CHEYVINGTON (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
107 1286 COLONIAL CENTRAL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
108 1287 HARELY TIME (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
109 1288 TONY (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
110 1289 SWANBY STAR (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
111 1290 THE ANDRANIAN (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
112 1291 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
113 1292 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
114 1293 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
115 1294 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
116 1295 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
117 1296 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
118 1297 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
119 1298 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
120 1299 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

2.00 SAMPING CHASE (novices: 24.888; 2m) (5)

201 0001 COMES BETH (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
202 0002 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
203 0003 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
204 0004 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
205 0005 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
206 0006 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
207 0007 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
208 0008 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
209 0009 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
210 0010 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

2.30 FERNBANK HURDLE (E4.049; 3m) (10)

301 120000 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
302 120001 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
303 120002 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
304 120003 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
305 120004 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
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308 120007 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
309 120008 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
310 120009 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

3.00 WHITBREAD TRIAL CHASE (Handicap: 29.614; 3m) (8)

401 11146 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
402 11147 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
403 11148 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
404 11149 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
405 11150 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
406 11151 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
407 11152 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
408 11153 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
409 11154 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
410 11155 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

4.15 NEENTON HURDLE (Selling handicap: E694; 2m) (20)

501 000000 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
502 000001 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
503 000002 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
504 000003 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
505 000004 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
506 000005 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
507 000006 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
508 000007 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
509 000008 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
510 000009 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

5.15 OTELEY LEAPING (Hunters: E884; 3m) (20)

601 000000 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
602 000001 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
603 000002 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
604 000003 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
605 000004 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
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609 000008 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
610 000009 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

5.45 LUDLOW HURDLE (Selling handicap: E694; 2m) (20)

701 000000 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
702 000001 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
703 000002 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
704 000003 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
705 000004 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
706 000005 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
707 000006 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
708 000007 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
709 000008 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
710 000009 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

Ludlow selections

By Michael Seely

1.15 Top Reef. 1.45 Indian Pool. 2.15 Ballytarr. 2.45 Cumberland

3.15 Romney Nightshade. 3.45 Master Sport. 4.15 Barley

Brake.

Carlisle

Going good to soft

1.15 (1.45) NEENTON HURDLE (Selling handicap: E694; 2m) (20)

501 000000 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
502 000001 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
503 000002 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
504 000003 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
505 000004 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
506 000005 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
507 000006 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
508 000007 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
509 000008 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
510 000009 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

Ascot selections

By Our Racing Correspondent

1.30 Master Andrew. 2.00 Pinky Dollars. 2.30 Mayotte. 3.00 Little Owl

4.15 Semus O'Flynn. 4.10 Black.

Warwick results

Going heavy

1.30 (1.30) DATCHER HURDLE (Novices: 22.715; 2m) (16 runners)

101 1280 WINDMILL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
102 1281 MASTER ANDREW (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
103 1282 CHAMPAGNE CHARLIE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
104 1283 COLONIAL CENTRAL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
105 1284 BONY MAY (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
106 1285 CHEYVINGTON (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
107 1286 COLONIAL CENTRAL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
108 1287 HARELY TIME (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
109 1288 TONY (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
110 1289 SWANBY STAR (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
111 1290 THE ANDRANIAN (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
112 1291 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
113 1292 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
114 1293 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
115 1294 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
116 1295 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
117 1296 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
118 1297 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
119 1298 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
120 1299 MALFORD LAD (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

2.00 SAMPING CHASE (novices: 24.888; 2m) (5)

201 0001 COMES BETH (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
202 0002 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
203 0003 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
204 0004 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
205 0005 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
206 0006 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
207 0007 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
208 0008 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
209 0009 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
210 0010 PINKY DOLLARS MOORE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

2.30 FERNBANK HURDLE (E4.049; 3m) (10)

301 120000 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
302 120001 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
303 120002 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
304 120003 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
305 120004 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
306 120005 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
307 120006 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
308 120007 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
309 120008 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
310 120009 MILL OF SLANE (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

3.00 WHITBREAD TRIAL CHASE (Handicap: 29.614; 3m) (8)

401 11146 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
402 11147 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
403 11148 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
404 11149 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
405 11150 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
406 11151 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
407 11152 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
408 11153 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
409 11154 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
410 11155 LITTLE OWL (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

4.15 NEENTON HURDLE (Selling handicap: E694; 2m) (20)

501 000000 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
502 000001 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
503 000002 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
504 000003 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
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509 000008 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
510 000009 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore

5.15 OTELEY LEAPING (Hunters: E884; 3m) (20)

601 000000 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
602 000001 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
603 000002 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
604 000003 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
605 000004 ALBERTA (M) 5 years 11-13 F. Scudamore
606 000005

La Crème de la crème

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Telex 887374

A new appointment—scope to expand responsibilities.

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The Head of Purchasing in this expanding Service Agency requires an administrative Assistant with short-hand and accurate typing, to help him in the re-organisation of this busy department. The responsibilities will be varied, ranging from delegated correspondence to ad-hoc research and assistance in processing a large volume of paperwork. The successful candidate is likely to be aged 25-35, will be able to assess priorities, train and motivate staff and will be accustomed to working accurately under pressure. This appointment is particularly suitable for experienced secretaries who wish to further their careers. Initial salary negotiable £6,500-£7,500 + early review. Please telephone Vicky Duckham on 01-588 3558 or write to the Managing Director, under reference SAA 562/77.

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Secretarial Services Manager
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£6,500. W1 oil Co. needs PA/Sec (25-35) for Senior Executive.
£7,000. W1 architect is looking for Exp. PA/Sec (30ish) for Partner.
£8,000. Legal Secretary for major TV Co.
£8,500+. SW1 biling (Fr) PA/Sec for VP.

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(24hrs)

Recruitment Consultants
JAYGAR

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aged 41 of small property group with U.K. and overseas interest.

Travel opportunities optional, word processing experience an advantage but not essential. New offices to be based in London, ability to work on own initiative. Top salary.

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Our client, a French company based in Paris, is looking for a bi-lingual secretary to work in their office. The French Secretary must be fluent in French and English, with a minimum of 5 years experience. The position is ideal for a young, energetic, and motivated person. Salary is £7,000 per annum. Please send CV to: J. P. Kenny & Partners, 88/89 High Holborn, London WC1V 6LS, or telephone: 01-434 1431.

John Davis
Personnel Consultants Ltd
01-434 1431

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The Managing Director of our Executive Research Operation wishes to appoint a first class Secretary to assist him in his work.

You will be involved in the full range of secretarial duties including confidential correspondence and liaison with clients, candidates and other parts of the Group.

Probably in the age range 35-45 you will have excellent secretarial skills and several years' experience at a senior level.

We offer a salary c. £6,500, 50p day L.V.s and a friendly working environment.

Please telephone Sarah Hazell on 01-493 3551 or send career details to: ASL Recruitment Advertising, 17 Stratton St., London W1X 6DB.

MSL

International Management Consultants
52 Grosvenor Gardens London SW1W 0AW

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For further information please telephone Julia Swinburne on 01-584 1752.

ASSISTANT TO MANAGING DIRECTOR**AGE 22-25 UP TO £7,000**

We are a firm of Executive recruitment consultants based in the City, associated with a major international company.

Our Managing Director is looking for an assistant to manage assignments, including liaison with both clients and candidates. To qualify for the post you should have education to 'A' level standard; excellent secretarial skills; enjoy working as part of a small team and be an enthusiastic personality.

For further information please telephone Mrs. Sarah Smith, on 488 0156. (BOC International Ltd.)

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Nationally known North London import and export company require a thoroughly experienced Secretary to work with its senior management.

Suitable applicants will be fully experienced in working at director level, wish to accept responsibility and participate in a general office routine. Excellent package of benefits is offered for career orientated applicants.

RING 906 0316**Recruitment Consultants**

RECEPTIONIST £5,000
For fast moving expanding P.R. consultancy. Excellent presentation, little typing, keen advantage. Must be well spoken and want scope to really excel.

P.A. ADVERTISING RECRUITMENT £2,000
Superb role with loads of involvement dealing with clients, new business, etc. Good experience, shorthand and typing.

MEDIA ASSISTANT/TYPIST £5,000
Excellent career opportunity for bright second jobber in a media buying house. Needs good presentation and fast accurate typing.

P.A. ADVERTISING £5,000
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8 Blevins Street London W1**adpower****communications****£9,000****The Chairman of a large****public company operating****worldwide needs a P.A./****Secretary. Superb organiz-****ing skills are required to****arrange a very full pro-****gramme of business****appointments and social****events. Age 30-40.****Directors' Secretaries****01-723 1233****EXPORT ASSISTANT****TO DIRECTOR****£7,000 negotiable**

Small export company based in S.W.7 seek person with good all round export experience. Must also be career orientated and numerate with good secretarial skills. Aged 25-40. Salary negotiable, depending on experience. Call Janine Robinson on 370 6649 (No agencies please)

01-734 7282**MARY OVERTON****RECRUITMENT LIMITED****33 Piccadilly, London W1Y 9JZ****£6,250****SENIOR****SECRETARY**

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If you have experience of 1000/900 words per hour of dictation, please apply to: 01-434 1431.

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Join us for a pizza lunch on Friday, 12th February, between 12.30 and 2.30 p.m. Telephone us on 625 7262 to make a reservation.

7 Princes St., W1**Graduate Girls****Secretarial****Young Legal Secretary preferably****with a little litigation****experience required for position****involving criminal and divorce****cases. Salary negotiable.****BARNETT PERSONNEL LEGAL****(Rec Con)****88 Tice St.****EXECUTIVE SECRETARY****TO P.R. EXECUTIVE**

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01-434 1431**COVENT GARDEN**

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Telephone Michelle**01-240 2494****BRAZILIAN BANK**

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Fluent English and Portuguese essential with experience in banking most useful. Successful applicant - £8,000-£12,000.

Neel Alexander Associates
01-244 2258
(Emp. Agt.)

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JOYCE GUNNESS BUREAU
217 Broad Street
01-438 8877/0010
The Recruitment Consultants

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01-437 8951**ESTATE AGENTS****KENSINGTON**

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The Senior Partner of a major international firm of Chartered Surveyors requires a Secretary/P.A., aged 25-45, to undertake both the efficient running of his office and his secretarial work.

Excellent shorthand and typing skills are essential as is experience of office procedure and management on a professional level and a knowledge of accounts. The work is demanding but the salary and benefits (including profit share and BUPA) reflect the importance of this position. Please telephone:

Julie Sechell on
01-238 1520 for further details
(No Agencies)

01-238 1520**SECRETARY/AIR STEWARD/ESS**

Age 24 to 35 required for this demanding but very interesting position with an international group of companies. Although working mainly in their London offices there is a certain amount of flying involved on their executive aircraft. This position will suit someone prepared to work flexible hours. This vacancy will be offered to a career-minded person who has an outstanding past record and who is bi-lingual in both English and French. Only applicants with experience in both office work and flying need apply.

An excellent salary and other benefits commensurate with the position offered.

Please send curriculum vitae and names of 3 referees to:

Box 1079 G, The Times

Box 1079 G, The Times**PA/ASSISTANT PERSONNEL**

Our Client, based just to the West of London, needs someone who is a team player, able to work on their own initiative, and happy to join a small personnel team whose commitment to the job sometimes borders on the paranoiac. A fast accurate typist is essential and shorthand would be a bonus but not essential. In someone who can become involved across the board in contracts of employment, salary administration, recruitment, job grading and manpower statistics. To survive we think you'll need to be over 25, looking for something non-routine and with the ability to adapt to any given situation, and above all have an advanced sense of humour.

Please send full details to: Sue Rogers, Ref. 93, Kenchum Specialist Advertising Ltd., 32 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4LX.

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The charming manager of this famous international company in West London, needs a French-speaking bilingual secretary with excellent skills, to help him run a U.K. subsidiary company. You must be a team player and have a delightful personality in order to excel as a vital member of his small team. Excellent grooming and a good education are essential. Age 25+. Please telephone Suzanne de Berniere.

493 5767
GORDON YATES LTD.
35 Old Bond St., London, W1
(Bond Consultants)

01-434 1431**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY****£7500 WEYBRIDGE**

Our Managing Director needs an Executive Secretary to join the executive team and assist him in his office.

The company manufactures and imports scientific instruments and the work is exciting and challenging. It is appreciated that full details cannot be provided in an advertisement, but preliminary enquiries are sought from those who feel that they could command a salary of between £10,000-£12,000 per annum plus car and other benefits.

Please apply to: The Chairman,
Box 1080 G, The Times

Box 1080 G, The Times**ASALAW SECS**

Perm Vac: Min 4 yrs legal exp. Age 25-40. Salary: £6,000-£7,000. Comp. Comm. Tax Partner, W1. SH. 24-25. 01-434 1431.

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3. General Law, Partner, WCI. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

4. Trusts, Partner, EC2. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

5. Comp. Law, Partner, EC4. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

6. Property Partner, EC4. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

7. Comp. Comm. Partner, NW1. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

8. Comp. Partner, EC2. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

9. Comp. Partner, EC2. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

10. Comp. Partner, EC2. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

11. Comp. Partner, EC2. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

12. Comp. Partner, EC2. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

13. Comp. Partner, EC2. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

14. Comp. Partner, EC2. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

15. Comp. Partner, EC2. SH. 35-45. 01-434 1431.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Dear

BBC 1	BBC 2	ITV/LONDON	Radio 4	Radio 3	Radio 2
<p>9.05 For Schools. Colleges: Technical studies 9.38 Science workshop 10.00 Yoda and the Roy Hudd (not schools) 10.15 Maths 10.30 Geometry 11.00 News and Pictures 11.17 The claret 11.40 The Jamaican countryman 12.05 Lesson 12.40 The Jamaican countryman 12.20 News After Noon with Richard Whitmore and Moir Stuart 12.57 Regional news (London and SE only) 12.57 Regional news and headlines with subtitles 1.00 Pebble Mill at One. Among the items of this popular magazine programme is a look at the traditional British pie by Elizabeth Craini 1.45 Postman Pat. A See-Saw programme for the very young (2.01 For Schools. Colleges: The Frozen North 2.18 Modern History: From Pearl Harbour to Hiroshima 2.40 Merry-go-Round 3.05 Songs of Praise from the St Paul's district 3.15 The Story of the Treasure Seekers. The last episode of the dramatization of the novel by E. Nesbit. 3.45 News with Richard Baker 6.00 South East at Six 6.25 Nationwide 6.55 Rolf Harris Cartoon Time. Two funnies featuring Droopy and one each with Tom and Jerry and Daffy Duck. 7.25 Film: Bret Maverick starring James Garner. A made-for-television feature-length film heralding the start of another Maverick series beginning on Monday. Garner plays the laconic cowboy gambler who arrives in town for one last poker game.</p>	<p>10.20 Gharbar. A magazine programme of interest to Asian women. 10.45 Closesown. 11.00 Play School. For the under fives presented by Floella Benjamin and Andrew Secombe. The story is the traditional Three Little Pigs. 11.25 Closesown. 12.30 Open University: Developing Mathematical Thinking: Subtraction. 1.20 Closesown. 1.45 Racing from Ascot. Live coverage of the Sapping Novices' Chase (2.00); the Fernbank Hurdle (2.30); Whitbread Trial Handicap Steeplechase (3.00); and the Reynoldstown Novices' Chase (3.35). The races are introduced by Richard Pittman and the commentators are John Wilson and John Hamner. 3.50 International coverage of the second day's play in the Embassy World Indoor Championship at Cardbridge.</p>	<p>9.30 For Schools: Insight for the hearing impaired. 9.47 The Chama, heebons of Africa. 10.04 All about birds. 10.16 Garmen conversation. 10.38 Health in Britain and the United States. 11.02 A Yorkshire scythe-making factory of fifty years ago. 11.20 Practical Science. 11.39 The nationalization of the railways. 12.00 The Munch Bunch. Adventures of animated vegetables. 12.10 Rainbow. Learning with puppets. The guest is Christopher Lillicrap. 12.30 Play It Again. Tony Bilbowe talks to Green Cross Code man Dave Prowse who chooses some clips from his favourite films. 1.20 News. 1.30 Take the High Road. There is a stranger in the village. 2.00 After Noon. 2.45 The Six Million Dollar Man. The man of many parts comes to the aid of America's first woman astronaut (3). 3.45 Definition. A crossword-type game chaired by Don Moss. The celebrity contestants are Claire Rayner and Graham Stark.</p>	<p>6.00 News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.25 Yesterday in Parliament. 6.30 News. 6.45 Midweek Henry Kelly. 6.50 News. 7.00 Garmen's Question Time. 7.10 News. 7.20 Morning Story. "Where Did It Get Me?" by Brian Glavin. 7.30 News. 7.45 Baker's Dozen. 7.50 News. 8.00 You and Yours. 8.10 Around the World in 25 Years. 8.20 News. 8.30 The World at One. 8.40 The Archers. 8.50 News. 9.00 Woman's Hour. 9.10 News. 9.20 Play: "Home from Home" by R. E. Lamb. 9.30 Zoot. A collection of stories from the zoo. 9.40 Crooning. Butlers: Teds to the rescue. 9.50 Story Time: "An Old Captivity" by Neville Stute (3). 10.00 News. 10.10 News and Financial Report. 10.20 News. 10.30 My Word: A panel game. 10.40 News. 10.50 The Archers. 11.00 Checkpoint. 11.10 The Profession of Intelligence (last series) A look at British intelligence. 11.20 A Glimpse Look at... by R. E. Lamb. 11.30 News. 11.40 File on 4. 11.50 Kaleidoscope. 12.00 News. 12.10 The World Tonight. 12.20 Quake... Unleashed: Nigel Ross and guests share favourite quotations and identify others. 12.30 News. 12.40 A Book at Bedtime: "Charm Lives" by Michael Korda (3). 12.50 The Financial World Tonight. 1.00 News in Parliament. 1.10 News and Weather.</p>	<p>6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Your Midweek Choice. Donzetti, Hahn, Offenbach (mono), Lalo, records. 8.00 News. 8.05 Your Midweek Choice (con- tinued). Balfour, Gardner, Tchakovsky; records. 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composer: Bartok; records. 10.00 The Virtuoso Voice. Racial: Monteverdi, Grandi, Frescobaldi, Caccini, Corelli. 10.10 Piano Music. Racial: Schubert, Brahms, Debussy. 11.55 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Concert: Copland, MacDowell, Robin Orr. 1.00 News. 1.05 Concert: Hall, String Quartet recital: Haydn, Dvorak. 2.05 News. 2.55 Jazzman Talking. Benny Carter in conversation with Charles Kingsley Arns. 9.05am</p>	<p>5.00am Ray Moore. 7.30 Terry Woods. 8.00am News. 8.45am News. 9.00am News. 9.30am News. 10.00am News. 10.30am News. 11.00am News. 11.30am News. 12.00pm News. 12.30pm News. 1.00pm News. 1.30pm News. 2.00pm News. 2.30pm News. 3.00pm News. 3.30pm News. 4.00pm News. 4.30pm News. 5.00pm News. 5.30pm News. 6.00pm News. 6.30pm News. 7.00pm News. 7.30pm News. 8.00pm News. 8.30pm News. 9.00pm News. 9.30pm News. 10.00pm News. 10.30pm News. 11.00pm News. 11.30pm News. 12.00am News. 12.30am News. 1.00am News. 1.30am News. 2.00am News. 2.30am News. 3.00am News. 3.30am News. 4.00am News. 4.30am News. 5.00am News. 5.30am News. 6.00pm News. 6.30pm News. 7.00pm News. 7.30pm News. 8.00pm News. 8.30pm News. 9.00pm News. 9.30pm News. 10.00pm News. 10.30pm News. 11.00pm News. 11.30pm News. 12.00am News. 12.30am News. 1.00am News. 1.30am News. 2.00am News. 2.30am News. 3.00am News. 3.30am News. 4.00am News. 4.30am News. 5.00am News. 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Tighter controls promised on computer spying

By Stewart Tendler

A computer ombudsman and an Act enshrining general principles for protecting data on individuals, and special regulations for sensitive areas, such as medical records, are being debated in Whitehall as the final touches are made to a White Paper on data privacy.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher told the Commons during Question Time yesterday that the White Paper, based on Whitehall's consideration of the Lindop report on data privacy, is expected during the present parliamentary session. Legislation could follow in the next session.

It is understood that the White Paper is expected in six to eight weeks. Downing Street has been applying pressure on the Home Office to complete it but there have been struggles with Whitehall about the nature of its contents.

Home Office proposals have met opposition from groups, including the Department of Trade, who have argued that the proposals did not include strong enough sanctions against offenders.

Some indication of Government thinking may be given by Mr Timothy Bateson, Minister of State at the Home Office, when he speaks at a conference on computers in London tomorrow.

Whitehall sources suggest that the ombudsman would not have an inspectorate, but would examine complaints and oversee the operation of regulations set out in accordance with an Act of general principles. Under the Act all users

of computers above a certain capacity would be required to register, and conform to standards agreed between the computer industry and Whitehall.

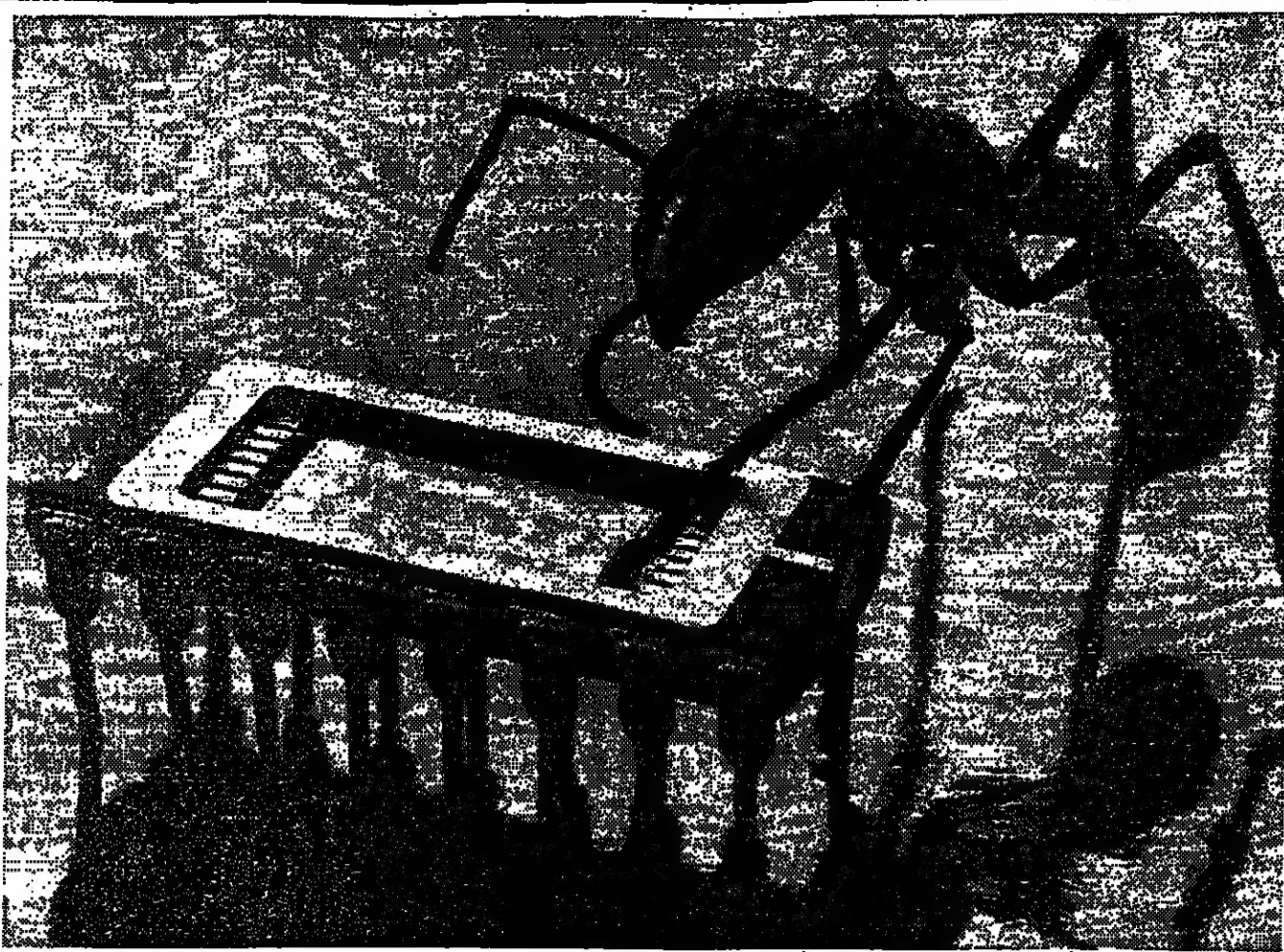
At one time it was proposed that special orders would be made for different users, that is, banks and industry, but instead it is proposed to adopt a streamlined system of general registration. However, special regulations will be drawn up by ministers to cover what are considered specially sensitive areas.

As far as powers and sanctions are concerned the White Paper may include proposals for the use of civil actions, but the Home Office is not thought to be happy with such sanctions. They may accept other proposals that the ombudsman, or registrar, be given powers to strike a user off the register.

Mr Thatcher told Mr Michael Meacher, Labour MP for Oldham, West, that she hoped legislation on computer privacy would be brought forward in the next session of Parliament. (Our Political Editor writes).

The Prime Minister told Mr Meacher she shared his disquiet that such information should be available. She had seen a report in the *Sun* newspaper which, with Mr Meacher's cooperation, had hired a private agency to put together facts about his personal life which could have come only from computer records, including medical computer records and those held at Scotland Yard.

Parliamentary report, page 4



A South American fire ant demonstrates the scale of Western Electric's 64-K random access memory, which has 152,000 components and can call up 64,000 items of data instantly.

Elderly blacks in US less likely to commit suicide

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Feb 9

New research in the United States has revealed a striking difference in the pattern of suicides among various ethnic groups. It disproves the theory that the risk of suicide increases with age in all groups.

Using sophisticated statistical data kept by government agencies, researchers have discovered that the suicide rate for middle-aged and elderly whites is three times the rate for blacks.

Among blacks the suicide rate peaks in the twenties and declines steadily with age. Some leading academic researchers argue that blacks feel less sense of triumph at reaching old age whereas whites often feel bored and lonely.

Dr Richard Seiden, Professor of Behavioural Science at the University of California, said in the latest issue of the *International Journal of Aging and Human Development* that among blacks "only the strongest survive". Elderly blacks felt pride in surviving against adversity.

The survival theory may also explain the low rate of suicides among older American Indians.

Religious attitudes to suicide seem to have a strong influence. Shoplifting suicides, page 4

10 years jail for woman who ran Polish strike

Warsaw, Feb 9.—A woman has been sentenced to 10 years in prison by a Polish court for her part in organizing and directing a strike at the higher maritime school in the Baltic port of Gdansk, the official PAP news agency said today.

The agency said the woman, Ewa Kucbasiewicz, had also been convicted of spreading false news likely to cause unrest or clashes and that her public rights had been suspended for five years.

Last week Jerzy Kowalczyk who was sentenced with her on the same charges was jailed for nine years, PAP said. His rights were also suspended for five years.

In the same case prison sentences of three to nine years and suspension of public rights were meted out to seven other defendants convicted of organizing and directing the strike, the agency said. It did not say whether they were also suspended for five years.

A communiqué from the chief military prosecutor's office, published in the armed forces newspaper *Zolnierz Wolności*, said that during the past week military prosecutors had investigated under summary

procedure against 87 civilians under arrest.

PAP claimed that martial law restrictions were being eased, with the restoration of all telephone communications between towns. It added, however, that the calls would have to be put through by an operator and would be liable to censorship.

Mr Jerzy Odzowski, the Polish Deputy Prime Minister, said today that he hopes that Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, who has been under house arrest since martial law was declared, will soon be freed (AP reports).

Mr Odzowski, the only Roman Catholic in a top government position in Poland, said in an interview that he is "convinced" that Mr Walesa bore no responsibility for what he termed the uncontrolled activities of the union in the weeks up to December 13.

Paris-Polish journalists suspended after the introduction of martial law will have to be "verified" before getting their jobs back in the press, radio, or television, the Prague-based International Journalists Organisation said today (APF reports).

Frank Johnson in the Commons

A drop of Scotch with a dash of double Dutch

Transport and road safety were the subjects of yesterday's main debate. So beforehand, to put us in the mood, a Conservative backbencher asked Mrs Margaret Thatcher to ease the tax on whisky.

Mr David Myles, the backbencher, a tenant hill farmer who represents Banff, is one of the few Tories with a Scottish accent, most of the others tending to speak in the simple, picturesque, rude tones of the wild Kensington-Chelsea border country. That is because the few Scottish Conservatives in captivity tend to be far more up-market than their English colleagues. Mr Myles, however, is the real thing. So, for long stretches, he is incomprehensible.

At Prime Minister's question time, he surged and rumbled his way through a lengthy reminiscence of the time when Mrs Thatcher paid a visit to a whisky distillery at Glen... Glen... Glen. Members consulted one another. Glen where? No one seemed to know. The up-market Scots were probably no help. It could have been Glen Miller for all they knew. Mr Myles continued happily on his way. "Will she recall the visit she made to the Glen... Glen... Glen distillery?"

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